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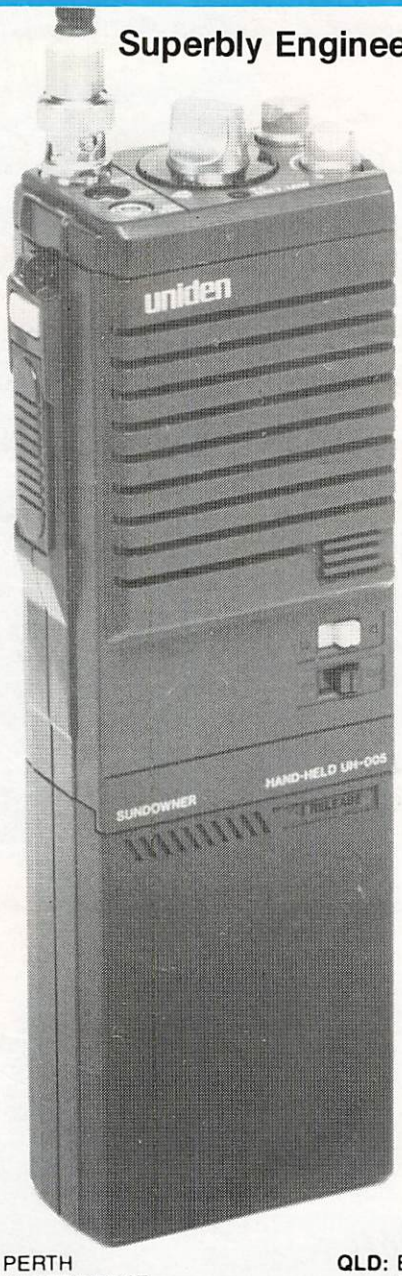

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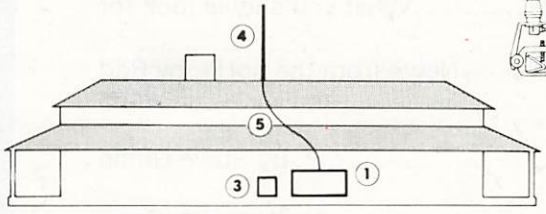

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On Channel

The legality of using scanners is again coming under scrutiny, especially in Victoria, following the news reports that a scanner was used to eavesdrop on the mobile telephone of one of our public servants. I suggest that you read the article by John Wilmott on the legality of listening to PAMTS.

★ ★ ★

In this column last issue I mentioned that I was going to try and get a scanner into Thailand to have a listen to the CB scene there. I regret that once again I was foiled at the customs barrier. The trip was doomed from the start!

And, it didn't improve with time. I received a message via the hotel switchboard that I should ring home immediately — urgently in fact. I made the call to find that my 12-year-old had a slight conflagration in the kitchen — a sort of "Oh no! The chips!!" variety, causing a pot of oil on the cooker to spew smoke and fumes throughout the house. You can imagine what it did to all my radio equipment and the word processor. To make matters worse, there was a note in the letterbox telling me that I should be out of the unit ASAP, because it had been sold . . . The estate agent wasn't all that happy, would you believe!

★ ★ ★

While I was in Thailand I visited a temple and a nice lady tied a piece of string around my wrist, with suitable incantations during the ceremony, to ward off bad luck. In addition to the conflagration in the kitchen, I've "done" the gearbox in the four wheel drive — and the clutch, the step-daughter has caught chicken pox, my cat was run over by a car, and I dropped a bottle of duty-free Scotch and broke it. I hate to think how bad my luck could have been without the piece of string . . .

★ ★ ★

You will notice that the DX prediction chart is back — due to public demand and the improvement in DX conditions. To fit it in, we had to drop the classies and new gear for this issue, so if you still want your classie to run, please send in a fresh application form.

★ ★ ★

"Over-Bight" got lost in the mail somewhere between Andrew Gardner and our mail box, but I was in Adelaide during the first week of April, and had a listen to the repeater scene over there, from the 15th floor of the Hilton. After the reports that I had heard, I expected a ding dong battle, but all was calm and serene. Maybe I was there at the wrong time.

★ ★ ★

Any person taking a look inside my boat would assume that I am obsessed with communications.

There's 27 MHz marine, VFH marine, and UHF CB — generally an Icom handheld, and a Philips FM320 fixed unit.

It's not really an obsession in the true sense of the word, it's more to do with that fella Murphy who invented Murphy's Law — "if anything can go wrong, it will — and at the worst possible time". He got me one afternoon during what we Melburnians have to accept as summer. Nautical miles from anywhere, I came up with a dead battery — not enough power to light the LCD on a digital watch.

So what, you say?

Guess who took the manual starting cord out of its little pocket inside the motor cowl to mend it, and forgot to put it back . . .

But Murphy didn't count on the handheld — a quick call to the channel 7 repeater (I was too far away from channel 5) had a message to the Coastguard regarding my misfortune. They quoted an hour's wait, but what the hell. The fishing was tolerable, and I had plenty of bait, but the Coastguard lied to me — they were there inside 20 minutes. Thanks lads — I'll double my donation next year.

★ ★ ★

The Victorian police were certainly toey with regard to the banning of radar in this state. One of our sales staff from Sydney was pinched for speeding near Euroa. The gendarmes didn't zap him, they simply snuck up behind him while his brain was in neutral and the speedo in the red sector, but they saw his radar unit on the dashboard and demanded same forthwith. Reluctantly, our boy handed the unit over, without receiving a receipt — he did ask for one, but could not afford the time to return to the police station to get it. Being smarter than the average bear, our boy looked up the date on which the banning of radar detectors was due to become law, and found that the constabulary had been a little previous. To cut a long story short, he hired a mouthpiece and his radar unit is being returned — as are at least 16 others confiscated prior to the law becoming official. If it was me, I'd invest in another set of number plates.

★ ★ ★

While on the subject of the radar detector ban, consider this. If you are nabbed with a unit IN YOUR POSSESSION — not using it mind you, just simply having one about your person, or locked in the draw at home — you will attract a fine of up to $2000. It's cheaper to go out and steal a car, drive it without a licence, and run up the tailpipe of the local vicar. That would probably fetch a fine of around $300, a bond, and a stern warning not to do it again for at least three years.

Betcha the truckies find a way around it — if they haven't already. Seems I heard a whisper about civil liberties being involved.

Personally, I don't need one any more. The FJ55 gets a bad attack of valve bounce at 100 clicks — downhill yet. . .

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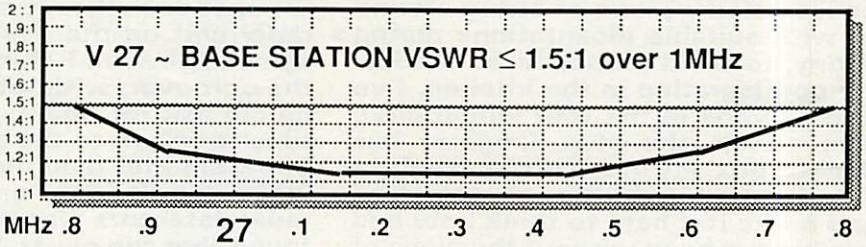

SPECIFICATIONS

TYPE.....PHYSICAL 1/2 WAVE WITH 3/4 WAVE FEED
ORDERCODE.....V 27 / L
TUNING.....PRESET AT FACTORY
FREQUENCY.....26.5 ~ 29 MHz
IMPEDANCE.....50 OHMS
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PATTERN.....OMNI DIRECTIONAL VERTICAL
APPLICATION.....BASE STATION
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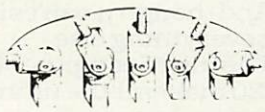

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LOG BOOK

SYDNEY RADIO FIELD DAY

The Sydney Radio Group, in association with the Sydney CB Radio Centre, invite CBes to their first annual radio 'field-day'.

This will be held on Sunday June 28th, 1987, at the Sydney CB Radio Centre, 1469 Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen.

'We are trying to have it along the lines of the popular Gosford Field Day, held each year for amateur radio enthusiasts' said organiser Graham Cotteril.

'People can come along and sell any second-hand gear, there will be an amateur radio station in operation, along with other radio-electronics activities'.

The Sydney Radio Group invites all interested CBers, clubs and operators of both 27 MHz and UHF CB, to come along and take part in the field day.

For further information, write to Sydney Radio Field Day, Sydney Radio Group, PO Box 184 Northbridge NSW 2063.

BUNBURY RADIO'S TENTH ANNIVERSARY

WA's Bunbury Radio Club have recently celebrated their tenth year of operation.

Founded in March 1977, the club has long been known as one of Australia's leading groups, and are heavily involved in local affairs.

Foundation member Don Stewart (our 'Out West' columnist) said that the club 'includes all forms of radio'.

'Actually the backbone of the club is still there, with some 40 original members still active on the airwaves'.

CB ACTION congratulates the Bunbury Radio Club on an outstanding ten years of service, and for their consistent efforts in proving CB radio tobe a vital part of the communtiy.

SYDNEY CB SHIFTS!

Business is booming at the Sydney CB Radio Centre — so much so, that it has moved into new premises, at the northern beaches suburb of Narrabeen.

With 1600 square feet of space, the Sydney CB Radio Centre now boasts undercover installation bays and customer parking.

The old Brookvale store was just too small, says owner/manager David Smith. "In the couple of years we've been around, our range has really expanded" he says.

"We are getting more involved in many areas — installations, cellular mobile telephones, and some commercial two-way and car sound gear.

"And, we continue to stock the best in HF and UHF CB, 27 MHz/VHF marine radio, antennas and accessories" Smith claims.

The new store (open 9am-6pm, Monday to Saturday) is located at 1469 Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen 2101. There's a new phone number, too — (02) 913 1616.

NEW SYDNEY REPEATER

Sydney readers of CB Action are advised that a new repeater has recently commenced operation.

Ch. 8/38, licensed and maintained by the Riverlands Repeater Group, is sited at Kurmond, in the lower Blue Mountains.

A spokesman for the group said that the repeater was intended to cover the 'Riverland' and outer-western areas of Sydney. This extends along the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers, with town around Penrith, Windsor and Richmond in the primary service area.

A more detailed report on 8/38 is featured elsewhere in this issue, but the Riverlands Repeater Group wish to impress upon Sydney UHFers that the repeater is not intended to cover all of Sydney.

"It is mainly for those mobiles outside reliable range of ch. 3 Prospect," he said, "although many others, especially base stations, will be able to access it further to the east."

ACBRO

The Australian Citizens Band Radio Organisation (ACBRO) wishes to advise of their new postal address — PO Box 146 Plympton SA 5038.

ACBRO is a nationally-based group which aims to represent users of the CBRS to DOC, and promote good relations between CB operators throughout Australia.

It publishes a quarterly magazine, 'ACBRO Action', and invites both clubs and individuals to join the organisation to continue and expand their efforts for the CBRS (both 27 MHz and UHF).

THE CAPTAIN GOES INTO BATTLE

Well-known Sydney CB store, Captain Communications, has entered the ring in the fight for that city's Sydney-wide ch. 2/32 UHF repeater.

As the saga of 2/32 reaches epic (legendary?) proportions, store owner David Gill has stated he is totally prepared to supply, fund and fully maintain a repeater, located at the Kurrajong Heights site developed in conjunction with Miles Communications.

"Our own commercial UHF repeater operates from the same site," says Gill, "with a solid coverage all over Sydney and well beyond.

"We have proven the suitability of the site, and our ability to operate the repeater. We have the equipment, the money and the expertise. Given the chance, Captain Communications and Miles Communications will develop channel 2 into a useful repeater, to the benefit of every UHF CBer in Sydney."

WORDMAZE WINNER

The winner of the CB Action-/Delta Base Wordmaze from our last issue is Mr N White of Forbes, NSW. Congratulations Mr White, Delta Base is forwarding your prize.

The correct anwers for the wordmaze were: 1. Mayday; 2. Leopard; 3. Boomer; 4. Icom; 5. Electrophone; 6. Ranger; 7. Emtron Ace; 8. Cobra; 9. Philips; 10. Uniden.

See page 54 for the new wordmaze competition, and good luck!

LOG BOOK

However, the existing licence held by the Western Radio Club prevents the repeater being licensed and established.

"The Western Radio Club has made no effort to get the repeater up, in five years. If they have tried, they've also failed. It's about time the Department Of Communications gave someone else a chance to put the repeater on air," Gill told CB Action.

Captain Communications has also lent its weight to a campaign by Sydney UHF hobbyists to have the licence withdrawn from the club.

A spokesman for the Blue Mountains Repeater Association, which is organising the effort, said he was "amazed that DOC has re-issued the licence for 2/32 to the Western Radio Club, despite its obvious total lack of ability to erect the repeater.

"We have prepared pro-forma letters of protest for UHF CBers to sign and forward to DOC. They have been distributed to CB clubs and stores all over Sydney. We hope this will generate enough pressure to have the Department take some positive and sensible action.

"The club has held the licence for five years now" said the spokesman. "We believe that it should be cancelled, and applications invited from other groups — clubs, shops, individuals — to erect the ch. 2/32 repeater. This is the only fair way to do it."

As they used to say in the serials — stay tuned for the next thrilling episode!

CBA REPEATER LIST

Thanks to the wonderful response from UHF repeater groups and users, the newly updated Repeater List is almost complete, and should be appearing in the next issue.

Repeater list editor, and 'UHF News' correspondent Greg Towells, tells us he is still short of details on repeaters in Queensland. Can anyone out there help?

Likewise, any changes to the listing (or new repeaters on air) should also be brought to Greg's attention. Coverage area, site, channel and sponsor are all that's needed — so let your fellow UHFers know about the repeaters on their band.

Write to CBA Repeater List, PO Box 358, Granville, NSW 2142.

27 MHz AM submissions

Following the cover story in our last issue, DOC has received a large number of submissions to its proposal to ban AM after 1993.

"It has been a good response said a spokesman from the Department. There have been letters, petitions and submissions representing every aspect of CB radio."

Sources have informed CB Action that whilst the majority called for the retention of the AM mode a great many called for the introduction of FM on the 27 MHz band. This would be either as a direct replacement for AM, or to be run in parallel with the AM mode (until AM radios are phased out) over a period of many years.

Two submissions supported a sideband-only CB service, with another calling for a tri-mode (AM/FM/SSB) CBRS expanded to 60 channels (the top 20 channels for FM-only).

FLASHERS — BEWARE!!

One of our readers in Queensland sent us this newspaper clipping — maybe the Queensland Highway Patrol should take a look at the comments made by the Highway patrols in the US — see the rig report on the Cobra 19 Plus in this issue.

CB TWIST IN ROADS BLITZ!

Queensland's Highway Patrol police are buying their own CB radios to fight the road toll.

By STAFF REPORTERS

They use them to deceive truck drivers and travellers who warn one another with their CB radios that radar traps are ahead.

The Highway Patrol crews send out fake messages about the siting of radar traps or patrols.

Brisbane traffic chief Superintendent Vince Murphy said keeping one jump ahead of speedsters was a battle of wits.

Police had to use every trick the motorists used because some drivers hit up to 180km/h.

He said headlight flashers and those who used CB radios to warn oncoming motorists of a police presence risked prosecution under the Police Act.

Motorists could face $100 fines for hindering police.

Warning

Supt Murphy said some motorists also placed signs on the roadside, warning that police were ahead.

Traffic police sometimes relocated these signs facing the other way, thereby removing the warning and at the same time slowing traffic going in the opposite direction.

Booking offenders for headlight flashing was a cumbersome procedure, and not always enforced, Supt Murphy said.

It took up much time, and witnesses had to be produced, he said.

In New South Wales, the Government has ditched plans to ban motorists from using headlights to warn other drivers.

The backdown followed protests by ALP backbenchers that such a move would be un-Australian.

They claimed motorists traditionally gave signals to other road users, and any attempt to stifle those rights would produce a public backlash.

Supt Murphy said he had proved to his satisfaction the road toll went down during periods of constant police activity.

The seven Brisbane area road deaths for the year are one up on the same period for last year but the State toll of 62 is 16 down.

Supt Murphy said his Brisbane RID squads had been unleashed and had permission to work the Gold and Sunshine Coasts and Ipswich.

The Gold Coast had so many drunk drivers that RID teams had difficulty handling all they caught.

One team had booked 138 in two hours, Supt Murphy said.

Assistant Commissioner Alan Walker said RID teams had stopped 89,000 motorists since the scheme began last August.

More than 7000 had been tested and 1275 had been charged, he said.

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RIG REVIEW

COBRA 19 PLUS

The Cobra name has long been missing from the CB scene in Australia, but it's back with a vengeance, now being distributed by the Hatadi Electronics Corporation in Sydney.

We have selected two Cobras for the rig tests in this issue — the "19 Plus" AM only, and the 148 GTL AM/SSB — both mobile rigs.

We'll deal with the 19 Plus first.

We have studied the handbook from back to front to give us a clue on why the name "19 Plus" was chosen, but if it's in there, we've missed it. From the material contained in the handbook, the unit is definitely aimed at the American market — the references to the FCC, and also the instructions for use.

The guidelines for using CB per se is very simply set out, and DOC could do worse than include similar simple instructions with every rig that comes on the Australian market. Not that everyone is going to take any notice, but then it may help the total newcomer, and at least start them off in the right direction.

We particularly like the paragraph dealing with a comment attributed to the Highway Patrol, and in the light of the current broo-ha-ha regarding radar detectors, we think that it's worth reproducing here.

It states, "The Highway Patrol has said that drunken drivers, wrong-way drivers and speedsters reported by CBers is 'amazing'.

Even the "Smokey Bear" warnings don't shake their beliefs that "the potential benefits of CB radio to law enforcement are so great that they far outweigh the disadvantages". In regards to CB radar warnings to other CBers, the Highway Patrol has said, "We've overheard warnings being relayed to truckers long after our operations have been discontinued . . . so we actually receive a residual benefit from those warnings."

It has been our experience, gathered over tens of thousands of kilometres that this sums up the situation exactly, but let's get on with the rig report.

First impressions are always important. The 19 plus is small, and the front panel looks uncluttered and business-like. To protect the readout section, Dynascan (the manufacturers) have gone one better than the usual piece of clear film which you peel off later. They have gone to the trouble of having the film printed to simulate the actual display under operating conditions. Have a look at our cover shot — we left it intact, for effect.

Let's take a look at the features of the 19 Plus — there's no tech report, and not even a user report for the rigs in this issue. Our tech is still recovering from major heart surgery — and doing well, which is good news. Your scribe has had to shift premises due to a conflagration in the cookhouse while he was overseas, and as yet hasn't rigged an antenna at the new 10/20.

The front panel is, as we said, neat and uncluttered. The microphone is front mounted at the lower left, and above this receptacle are a pair of two position controls. The far left control enables the operator to select the emergency channel, channel 9 at the flick of the switch. The control to the right selects normal CB operation, or the PA mode.

Two rotary controls for squelch and on/off volume are located in the lower centre of the front panel, and to the right of these, the two

COBRA 148 GTL

touch pads for channel selection — "Down", and "Up".

According to the handbook, the unit will automatically select channel 9 on initial fire-up, but they have also come up with another smick idea to help those souls who are constantly turning their motor off, and having to re-select their favorite channel.

The power cord has three leads; the two which we are used to seeing — black and red for negative and positive respectively — plus an orange wire which is to be connected to a fuse terminal which is permanently live, or alternatively, direct to the battery.

This supplies current to a memory circuit in the channel selecting department, at very low current drain, and ensures that the rig will remain locked onto the last channel selected even if the power to the main circuitry has been turned off via the on/off/volume switch on the front panel.

The red power wire is connected through your accessory fuse as usual, so that the rig cannot be used without the ignition key being in the lock and in the appropriate position. Neat!

The information department on the front panel is also innovative. The S/RF meter is a vertical LED bargraph, with a TX indicator, and the channel indicator — a green LED, as opposed to the more usual red job — which shows "PA", when that mode has been selected.

Channel selection is accomplished by touching the pads on the righthand lower section of the front panel. An audible "beep" is heard as confirmation that there has been a channel change. By keeping the touch panel depressed, you can cycle through the entire 40 channels in about six seconds.

The microphone is connected via five pin DIN socket, which doesn't fill our hearts with joy. We would much rather see the more rugged screw in type, as in our experience, DIN connectors have a habit of failing after constant use — or abuse. The microphone itself is run of the mill stuff — neat without being gaudy about covers it, but let's face it, there's a hell of a lot you can do with a microphone to tart it up, is there?

Moving right along to the rear panel, we note that the compliance plate states that the unit originates in Korea, as do most of the current flock of rigs available. Not as good as the Japanese stuff, which has priced itself out of the market, but better than the Taiwanese crop.

There are three connections on the rear panel apart from the SO239 antenna socket; PA socket; extension speaker socket, and the three wire pin power socket with a positive lock-in clip.

The fit of the casing is excellent along the side seams and around the front panel, but the rear panel has a gap around the outside which you could almost walk through, carrying an armful of chairs. Not that you spend all day looking at the back panel, but it will let the dust in — and the odd spider or two.

The mounting hardware is very good. The bracket is slotted for quick removal and installation, the retaining nuts are large, knurled plastic jobs, much better than the pressed steel wing nuts which we have struck of late.

Last, but not least we must mention the handbook and king-sized circuit diagram, complete with part names and descriptions of each component. The techs should bow to the East — or wherever the Dynascan company is located, and give thanks for this little consideration.

Although we were not able to try the rig "on air", or put it through our usual test procedure, we have found in the past that dynascan is not in the habit of putting the Cobra name on a piece of equipment which doesn't perform. Featurewise, the 19 Plus has a lot going for it, and should be included in your list of rigs to check out if you are in the market for new equipment.

Initial impressions of this rig were "been there, done that, got the T-shirt". The 148GTL certainly doesn't fit into the slim line category, and in fact is more the size we were used to in the early 80s. And for the knob twiddlers — this one's for you! There are 13 controls and three indicators on the front panel.

Rather than go through the whole list of controls, we will just give you a run down on a few which you might know by another name, or which are unusual on most rigs available at the moment.

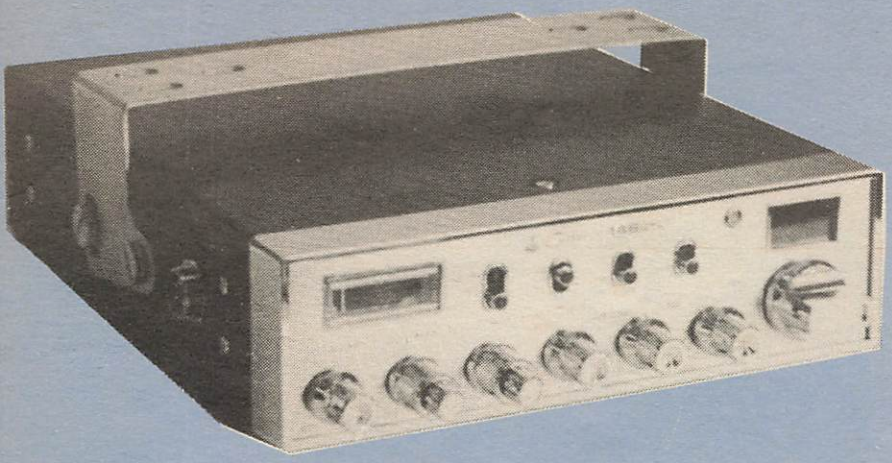
You can refer to the line drawing for their location on the front panel, and the general layout as well.

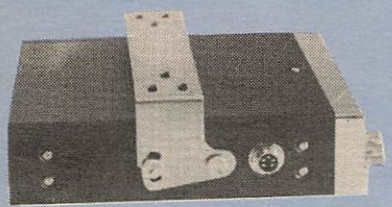
On the left you will find a rotary control marked "Dynamike". If you have guessed already that this is the mike gain control, go to the front of the class. Calling it a dynamike just adds that little touch of "one-upmanship".

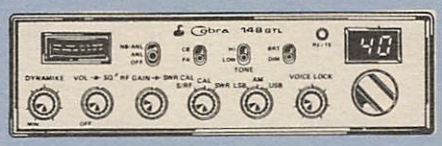
Move right along to the middle of the bottom row and you will see another rotary control labelled "S/RF-CAL-SWR" around the periphery of the control.

Before you even refer to the instruction manual, you should now be aware that this rig has a built in SWR meter — not common except on base rigs these days. Jump two controls to the left, and we have "Voicelock" — Dynascan's label for a clarifier. Two other features which deserve mention are the tone control — hi/low — and

RIG REVIEW







the brt/dim switch which changes the intensity of the front panel lights for day or night operation.

Perhaps it is now becoming evident why the 148GTL comes in an XOS case — it's got the lot! About the only thing you can't do is watch "Disneyland" on the channel indicator panel . . .

Last, but by no means least, cast your beady eyes over the S/RF SWR meter. It's the good old analogue variety which we have grown to know and love — mainly because it has to perform the task of indicating SWR, we suspect.

Of course, it's not much good having all these smick controls at your fingertips if you don't know how to use them, and this is where Dynascan excells. The instruction manual which comes with this unit is exceptional, and we can remember back in 1977, our editor had a Cobra AM/SSB rig with similar features except for the built in SWR meter.

He used this rig as a comparison rig for all test reports, and he tells us that the instruction manual which came with that rig was as equally comprehensive as the new one.

Not only does the booklet tell you all about the controls on the 148GTL, it also takes you through SWRing an antenna, the wiring of the microphone, and general operating procedure for the CB band. It also has an abbreviated listing of the 10 code, which would be better ignored for Australian operations — let's stick to plain language.

So far, so good, but now we come to the microphone socket. It's mounted on the lefthand side panel, a real throwback to the late 70s. Sure, there's simply not enough room on the front panel, but really chaps!

The fit of the casing is very good, but the rear panel has a couple of extra holes which don't seem to serve any worthwhile purpose other than to let the dust in. Maybe you don't think that this is important, but if you have ever been off-road in dusty conditions, or even thru the 'Red Centre' of Australia, a look inside your CB rig will convince you that it IS important.

Apart from the above, the journey around the back panel is uneventful-SO239 antenna connector, power receptacle, and mini-plug receptacles for PA and external speakers.

Mounting hardware is solid. The bracket, although not slotted for quick release, is designed for variable tilt, and features slotted, knurled fastening bolts (two on each side).

Once again, we were not able to test drive this unit, either on the bench or just "on air", so our previous comments regarding the 19 Plus also apply here. The 148GTL, according to the compliance plate, is manufactured in Taiwan, but Dynascan just doesn't put its name on anything which isn't up to scratch.

The 148GTL may look a bit dated, but as our geriatric editor is fond of saying, "Looks aren't everything you know — it's what's inside that counts".

We couldn't agree more.

Our thanks to Hatadi Electronics Corporation for supplying the rigs at such short notice.

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CHOOSING A NEW CB

By DAVID FLYNN

Looking back over the many past issues of CB Action, it suddenly struck us that there's one very basic topic we haven't covered for a very, very long time indeed.

'Oh no!' I here the long-time readers cry. 'Not another boring article on SWR, or how important co-ax is, or why SSB is better than AM!'

Ah, fear not. . . our topic for today, gentle reader, is the art of buying a CB radio.

Okay, so you are yelling that it came a bit too late, 'cause you've already got one. Fine. But someone out there is buying CB radios. We know, our advertisers tell us these things. Whether it's a first rig, or one for the second car or the home base — someone is about to take the plunge.

And with today's prices, it can be a pretty big plunge. AM rigs are still a neat $110 upwards, but you can pay up to $450 for an AM/SSB mobile — and twice that for a top-line UHF.

Yet within that range, there should be the right rig for you and your needs. So how do you find it?

FOR STARTERS . . .

Buying the right rig is simply a matter of asking yourself the right questions, about the sort of CB you need (or want).

To begin with, you'll have almost unlimited scope if you are looking for a base station. There are a few base units on the market, but some home base set-ups are just a mobile rig with the correct power supply, and a base antenna.

You only have to determine what size supply to use. Not the transformer from the old model train set. These are nasty little beasts, unfiltered and pretty gruesome when you look at the supposed 12 volts DC output. Beaut for trains — bad news for the CB.

Check the handbook of any prospective purchase, for the current drain on transmit — the peak condition you could anticipate. Then give yourself extra room to move, for safety. Most supplies are rated at both constant and peak drain (eg 4 A constant, 6 A peak).

For a mobile, the mounting position should be your first consider-

ation. This may impose limits on the size of the rig, the location of the mike socket, or similar — and you've already knocked half the field out of the running.

Anything mounted in a console will need a mike which connects on the front of the rig. The ideal position is, of course, to the right of the front panel, closest to the driver. Overhead mountings (popular in 4WDs) can also get by with a mike on the right side of the rig.

Fitting the rig on the transmission hump, between the seats, is becoming popular in modern vehicles where there is little dash space. Here, you can get away with a mike in almost any position (except perhaps on the rear panel, so don't buy a second-hand Viking if this is you!).

Okay, you've got the very basis of the installation sized up. Where to from here?

FEATURES AND FRILLS

There may be a lot of disagreement on the value of different features on a CB, most of it stemming from the question 'What is *really* necessary?'

Something that everyone understands (or should) is that no amount of flash features can make a bad rig perform better. Some of the most spartan rigs are absolute gems, and some of the most feature-packed are dogs.

Features can be built into a rig for little cost, at the manufacturing end. What takes a bit more is de-

sign, operation — good quality construction, clean signals, a tight receiver, and all these little things which let you talk to other CBers.

So you get what you pay for. But how much do you pay?

For an AM-only CB, start at $100. This end of the market is dominated by the compact rigs, with the bare minimum of features. Not a bad thing, if you only want a rig for casual CBing, or something easy to use.

More and more of these rigs are appearing with electronic channel change, which certainly wasn't seen on the same sort of radios in the past. It's a nice enough feature, but check and see what happens when you turn the rig off and then on again. Some revert to ch. 5, the emergency channel (a pain, unless you're a monitor); others to the highway channel, ch. 8 (nice enough); some remain on the same channel when turned off (best of all).

Then you've got the mid-range and deluxe AM rigs, from about $150, and the sideband units, from $250 upwards. These give you more controls and features, more lights and knobs — at which point

ou've got to decide just what you vant in the rig.

For pure mobile use, more than he basic complement of controls s too many. If you just want to sit n on ch. 8, then you may not want ny other knobs to get in the way. lell, you just may not need them.

Base stations are different — ou can concentrate on using each ontrol to get the most out of your g.

If you're a real tyro, every con-ol has its use. So make sure they re well-spaced, and easy to use if nobile. Check the convenience of he general lay-out . . . no sense aving volume and squelch at the ery left of the rig, when you're riving it from the right.

The rest of them can become et-and-forget controls in mobile ituations, when you're only con-erned with the up-and-down as-ects of the rig.

Fluted knobs are good, for a umber of reasons. You can see heir setting at a glance, or feel their osition. And they provide a posi-ve grip, so are easier to use than ounded-edged controls.

Concentric controls are used to ninimise space, by putting two nobs on one stalk. Check that the nobs travel independently, and hat moving one doesn't also shift he other. Again, how convenience vill the layout be when mobile?

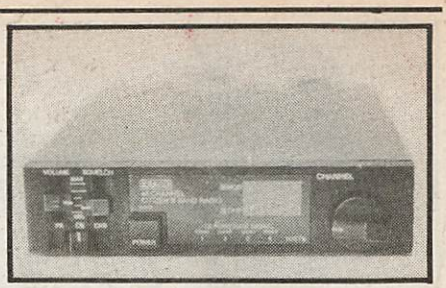
Another neat touch is a centre-top or detent, which lets you now where the middle of the ange is, on clarifier or tone ontrols.

Mounting brackets are definitely consideration for mobile stations. hey're much of a muchness, but a ood solid bracket beats a strip of in (or two chintzy corner pieces) ny day.

Okay, you might not find a rig which meets every requirement ou've set, but keep the priorities n mind. Which factors will most ffect your use of the radio?

Before we move on, here's a uick gander at the most common ontrols and features, and an evau-ation of their usefulness.

Volume — Yep, start 'em off with n easy one. Changes the level of ncoming audio from the speaker, nd is most often combined iwth the off-on switch. Some rigs (a lot of UHF sets) have a separate power switch, which lets you keep a generally-best setting for volume.



Squelch — another gift! UHFers know it as a mute — it can be advanced to a point where it cuts out background noise, and sets the point where an incoming signal will 'break' the mute and 'open' the receiver, to be heard. If you already know all that, give yourself ten points and go on to the next paragraph.

RF Gain — sort of like a volume control for the strength of the signal. At full bore, the RF gain will let you hear everything your rig is capable of, which is good for long-distance work and weak stations. Winding it back causes it to attenuate or lessen the strength of signals, so only the stronger ones are heard.

The DX/LOCAL switch is a two-position RF gain, easy enough to use, but an avid operator will go for the fully variable control.

Tone — not the most common facility these days, but it can make the difference between easy and hard listening. By using the 'low' setting, you can dampen the affects of sharp sounds like ignition noise.

Or, you could use the 'high' setting to lift a signal or add top-end life to a poor speaker. Also offered as a switch on many rigs.

Clarifier — found only on sideband rigs, to fine-tune each signal in. Simple enough, isn't it? Some of the older AM rigs had a fine-tune in delta tune for off-frequency AM transmissions.

Mike gain — here's a misunderstood or at least misused control. It allows you to vary the mount of modulation applied to the transmitted signal. Some prefer a soft modulation pattern, but most people wind the mike gain right up — not the best tactic. This can cause over-modulation, and lead to splatter and TVI.

If you buy a rig with a mike gain control, experiment on air, and get some reports and opinions (from stations at various distances, not just the two other guys on the block) of the best setting.

Noise Limiter — just a quick way to cut down on noise over a signal, which should really be automatic on any rig. I mean, if you've got a switch for it, you'd leave it on all the time anyway, right?

Noise Blanker — to minimise additional nose 'spikes' such as those from ignition systems. Some work well, others are useless.

CB/PA — using this switch, and with an external PA speaker fitted, the rig can be pressed into service as a public address unit. Great for doing hoonish things at the traffic lights.

Meters — two sorts, analogue

(with a moving needle) and digital (with LEDs). Either way, they indicate relative strength of the incoming signal on receive, graduated in 'S-points'.

During transmit, the meter shows output power (in watts). Neither function is meant to be anything more than a simple guide to your rig's operating status.

LEDs are more popular, and are a go-no go tool, for at-a-glance evaluation. And they look great at night. Analogue meters are more accurate, and preferred for comparative test (such as antenna trials).

Indicator lights — to tell you when you are transmitting (tx), which can also glow with your modulation; or receiving (rx); and sometimes an antenna warning indicator (AWI), which lights if the SWR rises above 3:1.

Dimmer — dims the display of lights, which is handy at night when the intensity and glare of LEDs can be a pain.

TECH SPECS

I admit, not a lot of people know how to read the specifications of a rig (the technical ones, not the easy parts like its weight and size!). Of those who do, the smallest fraction seems to use them in buying a CB. But if doesn't hurt to understand just a bit about them, even if it's only because some super-salesman may wave them in your face.

Let's look at transmit spec's first.

Power output — there's a limit on this, set by DOC, and a manufacturer would be downright dumb to quote less than the maximum 4 watts AM/12 W SSB/15 W FM.

Modulation capability is a percentage 'talk-power' figure, with an obvious top of 100 percent.

Current drain (tx) tells how much current (measured in amperes, or amps) the rig will need during transmission. This is the peak figure, so if you're to have a base station, get a power supply which can operate well within this figure.

Receiver specifications are a bit less cumbersome, but the big one which you can best relate to is sensitivity.

This is a measure of how 'sensitive' the rig is to signals, especially weak ones. It is measured in microvolts (uV), with reference to a set level of noise generated by the internal workings of the rig itself.

This is unavoidable, and is the charcteristic 'hiss' without any signals but in muted conditions. The standard reference is 10 decibels (dB), and the whole shebang is referred to as 10 dB S/N or 10 dB SINAD.

WHERE TO BUY FROM?

The other big area goes beyond the rig. I mean, put any CB into a pretty cardboard box, and they all look alike. But what about the guys selling that box to you?

What is their warranty period, for example? It can range from three months to two years. Some retailers have their own warranty period, backing up and extending beyond that of the distributor.

Is the warranty for both parts and labor? A blown diode may be cheap, but an hour's minimum labor isn't. Come to think of it, just what does your warranty cover?

Reverse polarity may or may not be specified as a no-no. Certainly, any unauthorised modifications will exempt the warranty.

There are lots of little traps, like UHF CB hand-helds with interchangeable mix'n'match accessories (battery packs, chargers). Sure, a battery pack from an old Electrophone TX-474 UHF handheld will power your IC-40 . . . but

it would void the warranty under certain conditions.

Another avenue to examine is the rig's off-the-shelf conditions. The handbook for your new Super Tart 5000 specifies an output of 4 watts AM, and a receive sensitivity of 0.5 uV — so make sure you are getting what you pay for. I've seen rigs claiming the mandatory 5 watts, which come out of the box at 2.5 watts — a noticeable difference.

It's no different to finding that your 40 channel CB only has 20 channels — and you are within your rights to have a check and tune-up done under warranty.

SERVICE

Today, your Super Tart 5000 is burning a hold in the local airwaves. But tomorrow . . . maybe she'll be clapped out. What then?

Before you buy a CB, ask some questions about servicing. For a start, unless you're highly mobile, the local CB store will be your first port of call when something goes wrong. So, do they carry out repairs at the shop? Or do they 'send it away', which can mean an additional wait of a week or more compared to on-site service.

If you travel extensively, then make sure it is a rig which is from an established and well-known manufacturer. Reason — it'll be one that all the CB techs, in the far-flung corners of the country, are familiar with, and carry spares for. Which again translates into a quicker repair, and faster turn-around.

We're just a bit biased here, but stick with the guys who've stuck by you and your hobby . . . there are a lot of quickies, joints which sell 90 percent car hi-fi and a few CBs to pad it out.

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Queensland Scene

By ROD FEWSTER

Rumours doing the rounds of a planned "Old Pirates Day" later this year . . . a gathering of Bad Buddies from days gone by.

Here are a few predictions from my crystal ball.

The venue will be crowded with *poseurs* who have lied about having been old-time pirates for so long they've convinced themselves it's true, and Good Buddies who think they're old-timers because they bought CBs three weeks prior to legalization, all trying to out-do one another with stories about how they managed to make their old Hy-Gains cover six megs, or how they DXed The Queen Mum and blew the windows out of Buckingham Palace with their multi-megawatt linears, or how they fooled the local RI into thinking that the arrays of switches on the backs of their rigs were factory-fitted options.

Huddled in one corner, well away from these unwelcome loudmouthed wankers, will be a small friendly group comprised of a handful of incorrigible bootleggers with RF running through their veins, a few AOCPs who are not allergic to admitting that they "hoisted The Roger" in their younger days, and a couple of doddery old ex-RIs (likeable straight-shooters who were put out to pasture when DOC decided that Gentlemen's Rules no longer applied to The Game) renewing old acquaintances and trying to fit a face to The voice That Got Away all those years ago. This group, including the retired RIs, will be arrested for consorting with suspected undesirables before the day is over.

Mingling with the crowd, trying to look inconspicuous by wearing "Spectrum Anarchy International" tee-shirts, will be several undercover RIs clandestinely imported from New Zealand specially for the occasion. Most of these will tender their resignations by the end of the day, after being monstered by genuine SAI members who only went along to punch out a few Good Buddies in the first place.

On the roof of a skyscraper several kilometres away, armed with a battery of sophisticated electronic eavesdropping and surveillance equipment, will be a gaggle of DOC's new breed of super-spooks, photographing everyone in sight and recording every word uttered for the Big Brother File. This group will spend a cold, wet, hungry, miserable weekend trapped on the roof after blowing the overload circuits on the elevators while illegally tapping into the electricity grid to power their gear, and will burn all the tapes and photographs and almost a million dollars worth of government property trying to keep from freezing to death.

These disastrous crystal ball predictions assume that the meeting will be open to all-comers, but if invitations are restricted to REAL old-timers and RIs of the Old School, it should be a bloody good day.

★ ★ ★

A Brisbane operator was recently fined a total of $500 for harassment and out-of-band operation.

This operator nodded the head to jamming a Brisbane UHF repeater by playing music, and to having worked outside the legal 27 MHz allocation even though the RIs did not find a transceiver capable of doing so.

Another Brisbane operator, pleading "Not Guilty" to harassment and unlicensed operation charges, is halfway through court proceedings at time of writing.

★ ★ ★

Dirty Lyle is alive and well and living in Johland!!

A Brisbane newspaper recently carried a story stating that Highway Patrol police were transmitting fake "Radar Trap" messages over CB radio to deceive drivers.

So what else is new?

Half the long-haul truckies in Queensland will tell you about the time they "got the green light" over the CB only to be nabbed by radar a few kilometres further down the road.

In Queensland you can be fined a hundred bucks for hindering police if you transmit the location of a radar trap over your CB, and flashing your headlights to warn oncoming traffic carries the same penalty.

Personally I think the roads would be a damn sight safer if the police quit farting around with radar altogether and put more effort and manpower into nailing the drunk drivers who are nothing short of accidents looking for somewhere to happen.

★ ★ ★

The vicious rumors that the fire which recently gutted Editor Smith's abode was lit by an irate reader as a protest against the inclusion of Queensland Scene in an otherwise wholesome family magazine are false!!

The fire was caused by the kilowatt finals in his Philips 901 going into terminal meltdown.

DOC's Brisbane telephone number has been changed from 52 8822 to 253 6322, and if you ring the old number, a Telecom recording tells you so.

Nothing unusual about that, except for the fact that it costs you money to listen to this recording.

I complained to Telecom about this and was told "it should be a free call" and that "the fault would be rectified as soon as possible".

It appears that DOC's number was changed several weeks ago. I imagine that on any given day DOC Brisbane would receive dozens of telephone calls. Many of these would be from people who had first dialled the "old" number which is still listed in the current phone directory. One could assume that each of these callers has been charged at least a local call fee to listen to the recording.

The following week I dialled 52 8822 again, just out of curiosity. Guess what? My meter registered a charge for the call.

I complained again. Obviously this matter wasn't very high on Telecom's priority list.

The following day a Telecom technician turned up at my door asking if I was having problems with my telephone.

After I explained that the problem was not with my phone but with Telecom's charging for what apparently should be free calls the tech dialled 52 8822, listened to the recorded message, and triggered my meter.

He soon verified that ALL calls to 52 8822 were being metered, and reported this to whoever is supposed to deal with this sort of thing. (He also arranged to have me rebated for the calls I'd been charged for).

I just took a break from writing this column and dialled 52 8822.

You guessed it!! The buggers hit me with another local call charge.

I wonder how long "as soon as possible" would be if the boot was on the other foot and I notified Telecom about a fault which gave me all my calls for free.

★ ★ ★

Elsewhere in this issue you'll find an article on the possible withdrawal of type-approvals for certain transceivers in which I make reference to a Redcliffe CBer having returned his rig to the importer for warranty repairs a couple of times.

He returned the rig through the Redcliffe hi-fi shop from which he bought it, at a cost of fifteen bucks a time in freight and a wait of a couple of weeks for its return.

He was more than a little pissed-off about it in the first place, but really freaked out when DOC technicians told him that the repairs which were alleged to have been carried out were a figment of someone's imagination.

At the owner's request I examined this transceiver thoroughly in my workshop, and I agree one hundred per cent with DOC's findings.

Apart from being poorly aligned the rig is a virgin. The last time it saw a soldering iron was on the assembly line.

★ ★ ★

While I'm on the subject of warranty . . . it's about time CB importers woke up to themselves and started offering a bit of SERVICE.

If you buy a CB and it claps out under warranty you should be able to have it fixed locally by an authorized warranty service dealer. You shouldn't have to send it half-way across the country, or even across to the other side of town if you live in a major city.

A few years ago, after the arse fell out of the CB craze, CB dealers would often do on-the-spot warranty repairs. Importers would come to the party and replace the parts and maybe throw in a few bucks for the labor, and in many cases supplied warranty parts up-front just in case.

Of course, in those days CB dealers were few and far between and almost always maintained their own service workshops. Importers had to do the right thing by them (and their customers) to stay viable in the marketplace.

Since the recent mini-boom started some importers have been flogging CBs to every price-cutting shonk who thinks he can make a quick buck.

Couple the consequent lousy profit margin with the importers' current tight-arsed policies and the lousy workmanship found in some of the crap they try to pass off as CB radios and you'll see why on-the-spot waranty repairs by your friendly neighbourhood CB dealer are a thing of the past.

I can't for the life of me see why importers have adopted this miserable attitude towards warranty repairs. It's not as if the money was coming form their own pockets, as manufacturers usually include warranty component package on a percentage basis as part of the deal. Maybe they've become so used to dealing with shonks who think "service" is what bulls do to cows they've forgotten all about the dealers who stuck by them during the lean times.

To be fair, not all importers offer pathetic warranty service.

John Yang, the Ranger man, recently sent me a pile of warranty parts you couldn't jump over. (Even sent some knobs, which aren't usually covered by warranty).

Good move, John.

One importer in particular stands a head and shoulders above the rest in the warranty stakes.

Mathews Haritos, late of Apollo fame and currently importing the GE range, is really fair dinkum about warranty service.

If one of their rigs packs up within the twelve-month warranty period and it's found to be a

Queensland Scene

By ROD FEWSTER

manufacturing defect, any dealer in Australia will replace it on-the-spot on production of proof-of-purchase.

Even better move, Steve.

★ ★ ★

It's a fact of life that you only get what you pay for, and good quality is always cheaper in the long run.

Helical whips are a classic example. They may all look alike to the average CBer, but they're not. I once bought some "bargain" whips which looked OK but literally fell apart within minutes of installation.

Same applies to coaxial cable. I've seen absolute crap RG-58 in shonk-shops at around a buck a metre . . . cable which is not worth five cents a mile!! (This same cable is also commonly used in cheap ready-made base-and-lead assemblies). No decent CB dealer would tie his dog up with this rubbish, let alone sell it. If you buy the world's best CB and the world's best antenna and connect the two with crap cable, you have wasted your time and money.

Before parting with your hard-earned brass remember these words of wisdom from your Old Uncle Rod . . . Cheap CB gear is junk when you buy it, and it never gets any better.

★ ★ ★

Although heavily outnumbered by the shonks there are still a few CB specialists scattered around Australia. Guys with well-equipped service workshops. Guys who can give professional advice. Guys who have the knowledge and experience to sell you the right gear for your requirements first time around. Guys who do the right thing because they want you to come back again, and because they want you to recommend them to your mates.

You've got rocks in your head if you shop anywhere else.

★ ★ ★

Here's one for all the CB dealers who read Queensland Scene. (Assuming there are any).

Did you know that you probably break the law every working day?

It's a fact!!

According to Section 65.15 of the Radcom Act you cannot sell a CB transceiver to any person unless that person presents a CBRS licence for same UP FRONT!!

How many of you have ever refused to sell a rig to someone because they couldn't produce a licence? Come on. Hands up!! Don't be shy.

The RIs haven't enforced Section 65.15 as yet, but apparently there's nothing stopping them from doing so.

All we can do is hope they don't feel like it.

★ ★ ★

Seems that a vigilante organization calling itself "The Generation Group" has been making telephone calls and writing semi-literate letters threatening physical violence and worse to some of Brisbane's more notorious CB baddies.

Anonymous letter-writers are usually smart enough to wear gloves while doing the dirty deed, but not this mob. Apparently an excellent set of finger prints was lifted from one letter addressed to a Redcliffe operator.

I'm told that one recipient of the group's attention has been up for assault and grievous bodily harm so often he carried a rubber stamp with his name on it to save time filling in the bail forms, and that he's really looking forward to giving the letter-writers a guided tour of the casualty ward.

Another proposed victim has been known to finish arguments by launching karate kicks which make Rudolf Nureyev's pirouettes look like the antics of a geriatric cripple, and I'm told he's also keen to meet up with "The Generation Group" at the earliest opportunity.

All I can offer in the way of advice is to tell the tragic story of The Mobile Monitors.

This group of vigilantes roamed around Brisbane back in the late seventies trying to "police the airwaves" by cutting coaxial cables, breaking off helicals, and indulging in a fair bit of pushing and shoving but no real violence.

They met their Waterloo at the hands of a group of REALLY Bad Buddies known as the Kallangur Wankers.

The Mobile Monitors learned a very painful and very expensive lesson that night . . . that "policing the airwaves" is best left to the proper authorities.

Take it or leave it.

★ ★ ★

Finally . . . how about some more of you dropping me a line now and then to let me know what's happening around the place?

It falls back on the same old few, some of whom have been feeding me bits of useful info for years, to keep me supplied with the ammo to write Queensland Scene.

Surely the rest of you aren't illiterate!

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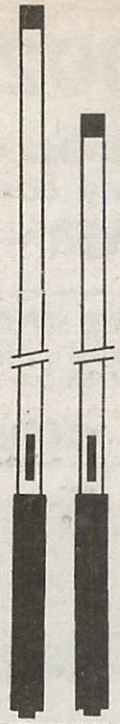

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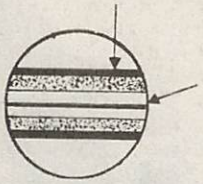

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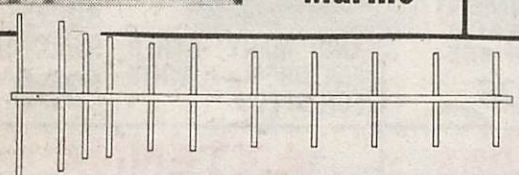

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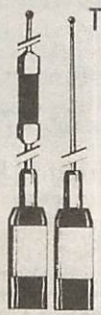

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SYDNEY SCENE

By STEVE GRIFFIN

Firstly its great to see a little recognition from the 49ers, so thanks to all those who mentioned that they got a little publicity in the infamous CBA magazine. By the way you all have quite a good reputation in high places — it seems that you have been listened to many times and at this stage there doesn't appear to be any bad vibes.

There appears to be quite a few of you 49ers in Darwin as well as Melbourne and South Australia. As there are so many of you throughout the country, why don't you all get together and form a club of some sort.

Most of the clubs that were formed in the good old pirate days were started by people like yourselves and a lot of them are still going strong, clubs such as the Lima Alpha Club, the Viking Radio Club, the original Wombat Radio Club, the original North Shore Radio Club (NS), plus quite a few more clubs that I cannot recall at this stage.

Most of them are still going, so why not give it a go, it could be interesting!

Surely one of you could get something together.

Also, you interstate 49ers — why not get something together in your area? I'll be glad to pass on any info that any of you come up with to other users in other states.

★ ★ ★

FM users are a dime a dozen as well. I have never realised how many people are already constantly using FM.

What a buzz! Weird named radios such as York JCP863, an Audioline 340, a Rotel RV240. Even more familiar names such as Cobra 21Xfm, Midland 3001, even a Tandy TRC2000!

So there you go!! I received a letter from Manuka ACT, saying that FM doesn't exist in Australia, along with a few other comments. All I can say is "Put your money where your mouth is!"

The radios mentioned previously are owned by a group of people from places as far away as Darwin. I know it doesn't sound like Australia is already been taken over by FMers but the people who have bothered to write are appreciative that someone does show the interest that's necessary to get the ball rolling.

Keep all those letters coming.

By the way, one of you asked if there are any dealers in NSW that sell FM radios. I honestly don't know. If any dealers read this article, drop me a line and I'll pass it on, — especially my favorite (little) dealer down in Melbourne, or for that matter any of you anywhere. If you have these radios, there are people wanting them, so let me know.

★ ★ ★

Congratulations are due to Standards Communications for its decision to make the Electrophone brand radios here in Gladesville. It's about time that someone had a go at making 27MHz units here. Let's hope the price will be as reasonable as the company.

One thing about their new radios is the added features of "Dual-Watch" to scan between two channels, and the instant "channel 8" switch to take you to our highway channel instead of the Emergency Channel as do most other radios on the market. This feature will definitely be popular with the road users throughout the country.

I must mention however that any radio can have either of these mods simply by installing a few diodes and other tricky bits — all you have to do is ask an expert. I'm sure he'll advise you how or maybe even do it for you.

Don't forget also that an FM mod is available for your own CB. It doesn't matter whether its AM or SSB the mod is cheap enough for you to have it installed. More info is available on request.

★ ★ ★

Apparently my old mate up there is Queensland has taken a few minutes to talk about his past. A little bird tells me that in an article in last issue called "Thanks for the Memories", he mentioned he had a Palomar PTR130K radio that did 0-520MHz. Gee, I don't know???

In a very old issue of this magazine it states that the radio mentioned would only cover 1.8 to 30 MHz Tx and 100kHz to 30 MHz Rx. Wonder who's telling stories?

Don't jump up and down Rod — I know it could be a misprint, or your evil fairies, or whatever. They even got to my column last issue!! Then again. . . Hmmm?

An in-depth phone call the other day leads me to believe that there is no longer any steps at the front of DOC's office in North Sydney. Apparently the front of the building has been renovated and the stairs were the first to go. Also, DOC have moved from the upper-ground floor to the third floor, making it even a little harder to find than it was before. If you had not read the address somewhere — in a phone book or something — you would never know they were there.

★ ★ ★

Cellular phones have taken Sydney by storm. I wonder how they're going in your area? The prices are a little rude at the moment but I'm sure things will calm down soon as there are more brands on the market.

It will probably turn into one of your basic price wars and within a few years everyone will have them. I can't wait.

I used one recently, which was completely portable, about the size of a UHF hand-held and it worked great. The price — a mere, and I hope your sitting down, $6600. . . yeah that's what I thought!!

The operating charges are going to be another Telecom monopoly, but what can we do? It will not be any better until Bell or Pacific phone companies, or someone similar, comes to Australia and take Telecom to the cleaners. Then, and only then will private enterprise have any chance of getting anywhere.

★ ★ ★

That's it from me for another issue, but by all means keep those letters coming, and please be patient if you require some sort of direct answer. All good things take time.

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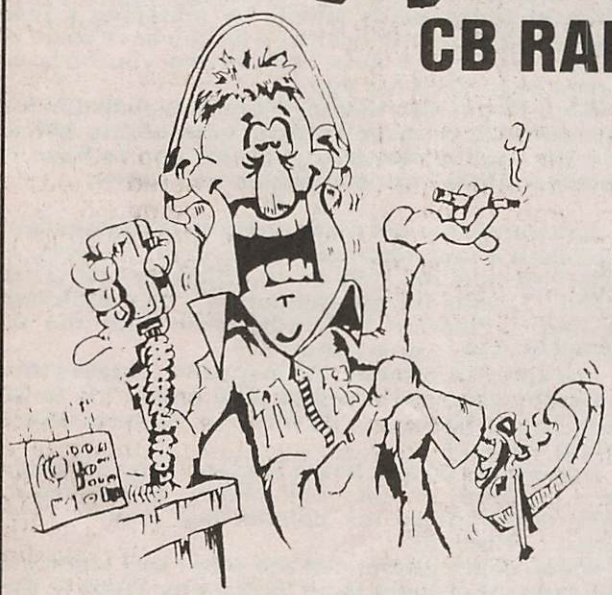

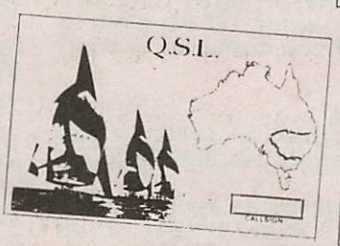

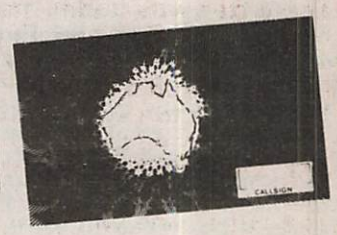

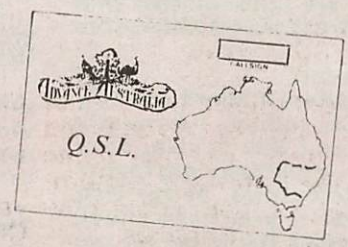

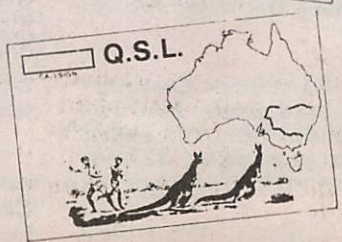

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OUT WEST

By DON STEWART

Judging by comments I have heard since the last issue, Rod Fewster and I could boost circulation no end if we started jousting in print on a regular basis, but if you bought this issue just to see what I have to say about Rod's comments last time you could be a mite disappointed.

Strangely enough I usually agree with him — even though I don't express myself so forcefully — I even took his advice to re-read his earlier piece, but did not find anything different.

I guess ol' Rod and I will just have to agrree to disagree on interpretation of that particular piece of breathtaking prose.

I didn't even mind the French Letter bit — I have been called worse by real experts in the field — but the last two words got me going.

Good Buddy, indeed!! I'll moider the bum!!

★ ★ ★

Just after Christmas the president of Bunbury Radio Club, BR356 Dave, almost suffered heart failure and was struck speechless for all of ten seconds (a major event on its own) when BR388 Eric showed him a letter received by his brother-in-law, Ian.

The letter was under the letterhead of the WA Minister for Police and Emergency Services and noted that Ian had recently intercepted a Mayday call on his CB radio and reported same to the police.

It went on to say that the police had taken the call seriously and mounted a full scale sea and air search at a total cost of some $15,000. It even itemised the costs of aircraft, police overtime, etc.

The punch line was that, as the call had turned out to be a hoax, the government would be happy to receive Ian's cheque for $15,000 by return post — or else.

As I knew about the incident referred to, I must admit my own pump skipped a beat or two as I read the letter, but I caught on when I came to the signature at the bottom of the letter and remembered that Eric's own brother, Gordon, is our new Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Good one Gordon.

★ ★ ★

It must be my month to take the kick for previous comments. As a result of my prodding about channel 5/35, I had a lengthy letter from WAW-526/WEM005 Phil, who is obviously a dyed-in-the-wool CREST fanatic, which makes him ten times as touchy as your average monitor.

Just to show what an honest columnist I am, I will give you the whole letter but, rather than try to sort out bits to answer at the end, I will pop my comments in as we go along. The bits in brackets are mine. Phil said:

I read your article in the November/December issue of CB Action in reference to the Ch 5 repeater, with some interest. I must say that it would have to be one of the most biased pieces of journalism that I have read for some time. I will be honest with you and say that in my opinion, you shot your credibility to pieces — I respect that you are entitled to your opinion as much as I am. It only demonstrates how out of touch you really are with the UHF CB situation in Perth. I will deal with your comments paragraph by paragraph, in order to give you an effective reply.

(Jumps right in doesn't he? Biased? In what regard? CREST? UHF? 27 MHz? I don't lean toward or away from any of them, I just say it as I see it.)

I felt compelled to write to you upon reading the aforementioned article, but I treated it with the contempt it deserved, which explains why no one bothered to write to you. But after reading your follow up in the January/February issue, I said to myself, "Self" I said. "You'd better write to Don and straighten him out on a couple of facts", so here you are.

(Better late than never I suppose.)

Firstly, about the alleged "congestion". Compared to other Australian cities, UHF in Perth is about as congested as the Gibson Desert is with people. Ch 1 in Wanneroo, which I monitor when not doing so with Ch 5, is extremely quiet. In fact more often than not, it gets more of a workout during the evening by hobbyists than it does during the day. As for Ch 3, sure it is busy at times, but in no way congested. I can tune into Ch 3 during the day and do come across quiet periods of up to 15 minutes at a time.

(15 whole minutes? Wow! Then they climb all over each other for an hour or so as they did last time I was in Perth.)

As far as the question of how many emergency calls have been handled by Perth CREST, I can't tell you, but if you were fair dinkum about driving your point home, you could've written to CREST. You'll find their address in the Club Register in CB Action, but I'm sure it wouldn't have helped your argument at all, which demonstrates your bias in the matter. Just in case you do wish to get the facts, you can write to . . .

(Address deleted. I was not researching a major thesis, simply putting rhetorical questions to make a point. By the way, I note that you did not check the facts yourself.)

In answering to the monitoring of Ch 5 and 35, yes, CREST does monitor both channels. Perth CREST based in Maylands has 2 UHF sets set up for the purpose. Another question that could have been answered by CREST if you had bothered to ask.

(That's good to hear. Score 1 for you.)

As for being able to count the number of calls on the fingers of one hand, I hope you have a lot of arms in reserve. There is no way you can compare Ch 2's access area with that of any Perth repeater, including ch 5, because of the number of operators it reaches. The Perth metro area holds approx 85

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percent of the state's population — by the way, I confirmed this figure with the Bureau of Statistics — and I'm sure the same proportions hold good for the respective UHF CB populations. Granted, an emergency repeater may not be of much use in Bunbury, which has a population of less than 30,000, but it has a lot of potential in a city with a population in excess of 1.2 million.

(My comments were aimed at the city and your figures don't change my argument. Potential does not always come up as fact.)

The part on your previous monitoring activities for CREST I find interesting, as well as misleading. Over what period of time did you spend 200 hours monitoring? I know of monitors in the Perth, Merredin, Geraldton and Kwinana divisions who monitor in excess of 200 hours PER MONTH, regularly. These persons obviously have different priorities and objectives than you do, but being realistic, they can handle it. Pity about those of us who can't though.

(More than six hours a day? You would go bananas. When I say monitoring, I don't mean having the set turned on next to your bed or while you do the washing, I mean a four-hour shift listening intently to every little burp that your set puts out on Ch 9 USB when the skip is running hot. The other type of monitoring I do about twelve hours a day on Ch 2 repeater and did for ten or twelve hours a day on Ch 9 USB during the year I was involved with CREST. Ask the Les who gets a mention in your next paragraph, he was the Training Officer who put me through my initial training and was with me for most of that year. As for priorities, objectives and being able to handle it, I don't like to bung on side but when you get your National Medal for 25 years voluntary service to the community, feel free to make further comment.)

You cannot compare 27 MHz with UHF as it applies to your area, because it is a completely different ball game up here in the city. I find that UHF gets better long distance coverage — up to 60 km — than 27 MHz. This is because I don't have to turn the volume up full to be able to hear a station that is say 50 km away on UHF as I would have to on 27 MHz. Try telling Les BR182, WAG346, that 27 MHz gives better coverage than UHF.

(Yes, Les gets out of Collie on Channel 2 repeater and is very happy for it, but nobody has ever got out of there simplex. 27 MHz gets out though, even if it is a bit weak.)

The comments about "Your average CREST monitor" demonstrates your total ignorance of how UHF propagates. First of all, when was the last time you spoke to a CREST monitor and asked him/her about the UHF coverage of their base? (What a horrible thought, they would probably give me the same sort of bull you come up with). I can receive and transmit SIMPLEX as far as Rockingham, 55 km south and Bindoon, 65 km north, and that is without the assistance of an inversion. In fact I use a short 9 dB on a seven metre pole, so I hate to think of the coverage I would get with a 10 metre or 15 metre pole. You must be in one hell of a hole if you can only get six to eight km off a 10 to 25 metre pole.

(I can do the same, base to base, but I was talking about general coverage to mobiles.)

As to the city being well serviced with telephones, that may be true, but it is of little comfort to a person who is stranded on the Tonkin Highway, or someone stranded in the city block — try and find a phone box in the city in a hurry. After the length of time you have spent on CB, surely you must realise that you cannot generalise about the way CB propagates, both 27 MHz and UHF, because each area/region has its own peculiarities. Also, I think your lotto numbers will come up soon, going on your suppositions.

(I know CB is convenient, I just don't see the need for a special repeater. No luck yet with lotto.)

In closing, suggesting that Ch5 and 35 are a waste of air space is downright IRRESPONSIBLE. That is like saying, get rid of Telecom's 013 service and use your phone directory — think about it.

(I fail to see the connection. The service would still be there but not exclusive.)

I was going to write this letter to you as the secretary of the UHF Association, but because I felt strongly about it, it would not be fair on the association to bring them into this discussion and for me to hide behind my position as its secretary. In the main, I think you write a good article every couple of months, but I honestly think that this particular subject should not be left unanswered. But in the future, I suggest that you do a little more research before making up material for your articles. I am more than happy to help you out, should you require it.

(Thanks all the same Phil, but I will just keep plodding along in my own bumbling fashion.)

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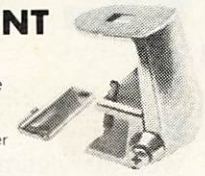

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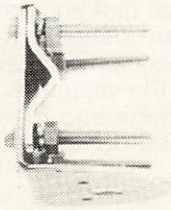

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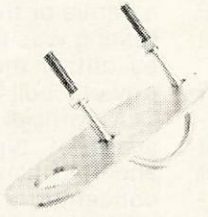

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ILLEGAL RIGS — STRAIGHT OFF THE SHELF!

By ROD FEWSTER

Friday 20 March 1986

A major shake-up of the Australian CB scene is looming on the horizon!!

Thousands of SSB/AM transceivers already in use and thousands more still on dealers' shelves will become illegal overnight if DOC decides to apply the type-approval specifications (DOC249A/DOC14) strictly to the letter.

I can't divulge the names at this stage, but several popular brands and models have come under close scrutiny by DOC technical experts.

It all started last Tuesday when a Redcliffe CBer was visited by RIs because of a TVI complaint.

This operator's transceiver had previously been returned to the importer a couple of times for repair under warranty, and somewhere along the line had apparently been given a bit of a tweak (and a lousy one at that) without the owner's knowledge.

The RIs hit him with a Report of Irregularity (DOC168) and ordered him to cease transmission until the problems were rectified.

This is where I come in to the picture.

The operator brought the transceiver to me to have it realigned to type-approval specifications. The DOC168 stated that its power output was 6W AM carrier/21W PEP SSB, with 100 per cent modulation.

My test equipment verified these power output figures but indicated in excess of 100 per cent modulation. DOC's portable test gear may be better than my workshop equipment, but I doubt it. In any case, a quick on-air test brought in a couple of "overmodulating" and "sounds bloody awful" reports. (Maybe I've got distortion built into my voice).

My verdict . . . the transceiver was the victim of a poxy soup-up job which made it work less efficiently than if it had been left alone.

I realigned the rig using standard testing procedures, setting the output power fractionally lower than the specified legal 4W AM carrier/12W PEP SSB to be on the safe side.

The owner took it to DOC in Brisbane for retesting yesterday morning, and later in the day returned it to me with yet another DOC168 which stated that on SSB the "peaks of power for each syllable average at 22W" and ordering it off-air again. (That funny-looking arrowhead thing is a mathematical symbol meaning "greater than", in case anyone thinks it's a typographic error).

I retested the transceiver and found its power output to be slightly less than 4W AM carrier and slightly less than 12W PEP SSB . . . exactly where I'd set it a couple of days earlier.

I then hooked the transceiver up to my second set of test equipment and came up with identical readings, eliminating equipment failure as the cause of the disparity between DOC's findings and mine.

I was a bit pissed-off about this.

It seemed to me that either DOC's test equipment had suffered a hernia or the guy who'd done the testing was trying to take the mickey out of me with this "peaks of power" bullshit, so I rang a senior DOC official who has had many years of type-testing experience and told him that as far as I was concerned this rig was well within the type-approval specifications relating to output power on both AM and SSB.

Although no longer actively involved with type-testing he was familiar with this particular transceiver, having been consulted about the results of the tests DO had performed earlier in the day.

He verified my power output fig ures of just under the legal require ment on both AM and SSB as bein 100 per cent accurate, but told m that, although this transceiver AP PEARED ON THE SURFACE t meet type-approval specification he was concerned about its abilit to "shift into turbo" during voic operation on SSB.

I knew about this, of course Any decent technician knows tha certain current model transceiver "talk up" much better than other (Why do you think all CB Actio staffers use these models? We' not silly!!).

What I wasn't aware of was tha this extra-grouse "talk up" capabi ity puts the SSB output far in ex cess of the specifications set dow in DOC249A/DOC14.

As far as I knew, and apparentl as far as whoever type-tested th sample transceivers and issued th type-approvals in the first plac was concerned, these specifica tions meant a 12 watt peak readin obtained using the standard "tw tone" test.

Not so, according to the DO official. DOC14 states that SS transmit power should AT NO TIME exceed 12 watts.

After a lengthy discussion abou the pros and cons of testing para meters I personally tested si brand new "off-the-shelf transceivers.

Every one of these indicate 12W PEP SSB when subjected t the standard "two tone" test, an until yesterday apparently woul have been passed by DOC as OK

Today . . . they're illegal!!

The reason these particula transceivers have so much grunt because the unusually long ALC a

LLEGAL RIGS —
ɔy ROD FEWSTER

ck time . . . around 40 microsecɔnds according to DOC's resident ɔffin . . . virtually defeats the limng circuitry.

DOC's major bitch is that this enɔles these transceivers to "talk ɔ" well over 20 watts even ough they pas the standard "two ɪne" test with flying colors, and is bit of electronic sleight-of-hand ɪs gone undetected for years.

The accidental discovery of the talk up" syndrome by a DOC testg officer has opened up a whole ɐw tin of worms.

There's little doubt that this talk up" capability was included tentionally and is not simply a ɔnus brought about by an engiɐering oversight.

Most, if not all, of the offending ansceivers were designed for the merican market, and have been dependently type-approved by OC for use in Australia.

The FCC interprets peak enveɪpe power (PEP) as "the average ɔwer at the output terminals of a ansmitter during one radio freuency cycle at the highest crest of ɪe modulation envelope, taken unɐr conditions of normal (voice) peration."

The keyword here is "average".

The offending transceivers DO xhibit an AVERAGE output of 2W PEP SSB when hit with the two tone" test, which may be aceptable to the FCC as simulating conditions of normal (voice) operon". (Who's to say what a "norɪal" voice is? Ever notice how ɜmale operators seem to "power ut" better than male operators? A oprano will, in most cases, drive" a transmitter harder than a asso profundo).

DOC on the other hand clearly tipulates that AT NO TIME should SB power exceed 12 watts.

This is an entirely different kettle f fish from the FCC's "average" ɐquirement, and literally means ɪat MAXIMUM OUTPUT PEAKS annot exceed 12 watts under \NY conditions of operation.

The bottom line is . . . the standard "two tone" test everyone'e een using for years to set PEP outut (and which, until yesterday,)OC apparently used as the basis ɔr type-testing and subsequent ranting of type-approval) now appears to be no longer valid in relation to Citizens Band transceivers as far as DOC is concerned.

As I write this column the "out of type-approval" discovery is less than twenty-four hours old.

Nothing concrete has been decided yet, but unless the wording of the type-approval specification relating to SSB output power is changed DOC can only take one or more of the following courses of action.

1. Sit back and do nothing.
2. Cancel the various type-approvals and list the offending transceivers as prohibited imports under the Customs Act.
3. Revoke the type-approvals outright.

The first option is very unlikely. With all the hoo-ha that's gone on over the years about spectrum pollution by Citizens Band transceivers DOC isn't likely to knowlingly allow CBers to run over-powered rigs with impunity.

The second would be like closing the gate after the old goat had bolted. It would prevent the importation of any more of the offending transceivers and may even prevent the sale of new stocks already in Australia, but it wouldn't do anything about the thousands of rigs already in use.

Having discussed the matter at length with DOC and reading between the lines, my money is on option three . . . revocation of the type-approvals.

This will be retrospective and will automatically render EVERY offending transceiver in Australia, whether new units held in stock by importers and dealers or privately-owned rigs, unlicensed and unlicensable.

At this point there are two ways to go:—

Firstly DOC could attempt to confiscate all the offending rigs. I can't see this happening. The twenty-seven meg enema would be back in fashion in a big way.

Secondly, and more likely, DOC will demand that the manufacturers and/or importers come up with a suitable modification to bring future imports into line with type-approval requirements while at the same time prohibiting the sale of all new offending transceivers already in Australia.

The probable pattern of events, bearing in mind that when the type-approvals are revoked EVERY transceiver previously covered by these type-approvals will instantly be transformed into a Prohibited Possession (meaning you can be prosecuted under the Radiocommunications Act for OWNING one whether you use it or not), will be as follows:—

(1) All rigs currently held in stock by importers and dealers will have to be certified as having been modified to meet specifications before they can be sold. (This is almost a certainty regardless of whatever else DOC decides to do).

(2) DOC will probably fix an amnesty period during which CBers will have to have their rigs deloused.

(3) The modification will have to be performed by DOC-authorized technicians, who will be required to issue Certificate of Compliance which DOC will no doubt print specially for this purpose. (It would be uneconomical for DOC to test every one of the thousands of transceivers already in private hands).

At this point we have another choice of options:—

(1) Operators will have to present their Certificates of Compliance to DOC, and their transceivers will be relicensed under a new type-approval.

Or, more likely,

(2) The onus will be on each operator to prove that the modification has been done by producing the Certificate of Compliance if required to do so. Certified transceivers will be automatically covered under a new type-approval. DOC will probably stick with its current modus operandi and give CBers caught with unmodified transceivers after the expiry of the amnesty period seven days to have the irregularity rectified but, if the compulsory modification requirement is publicized heavily enough to ensure that it could reasonably be assumed that no operator was unaware of it, the Rls may adopt a "get tough" stance and throw the book at offenders first time out.

I can't see the manufacturers and/or importers voluntarily digging into their own pockets to pay for the modification of thousands of privately-owned rigs, and I don't think DOC has the power to make them do so.

If you happen to own one of the offending transceivers it's almost a certainty that it's going to cost you money in the near future, regardless of which direction DOC decides to jump.

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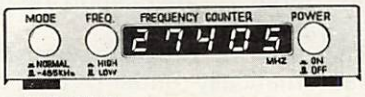

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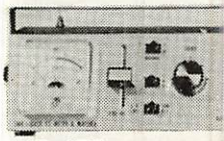

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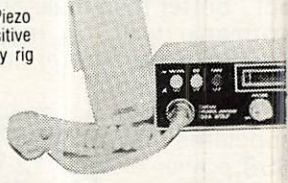

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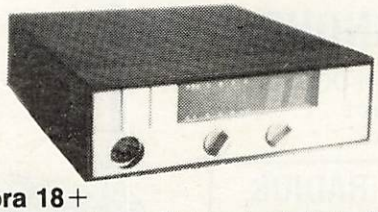
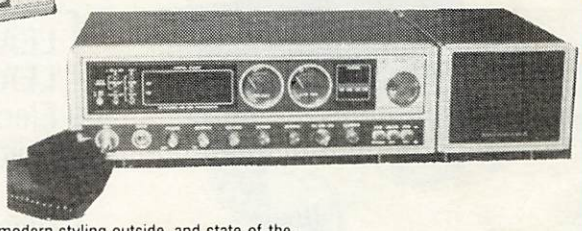


Cobra 18+

One look says it all — smooth! Automatic noise limiter, PA, ch 9 reset, large green LED readout and stylish 'staircase' LED signal meter. See this one soon!

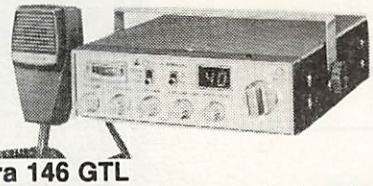
Trucker

The ultimate AM CB radio — and no wonder! Adjustable front panel angle, mike gain, RF gain, built-in SWR/modulation meter, heavy-duty mounting bracket, ANL/NB, ch 9 select — even a headphone socket!



Super Bengal III

The base that booms! Clean modern styling outside, and state-of-the-art inside. Mike gain, RF gain, SWR/modulation function, twin meters, digital clock and alarm, headphone socket, ANL/NB, ch. 9 select, even PA (why use an intercom?). Matching separate external speaker, too — what a gem of a rig!



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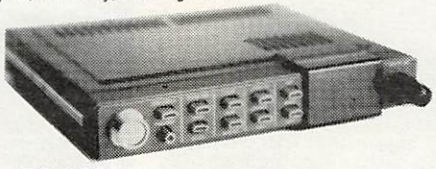
New from Cobra — the mid-range SSB that's a breeze to use. RF gain, ANL/NB, PA facility, and tough as nails.

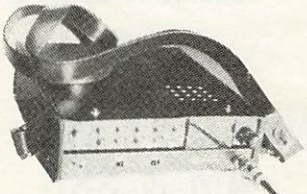


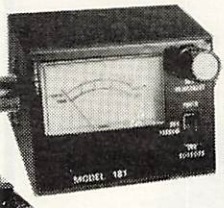
Royce TS-133

Setting a new standard for 477 MHz. Super slimline size, electronic channel change (on the mike, too), scan, repeater reverse, ch: 5/11/40 one-touch resets and more!

Porta-pack

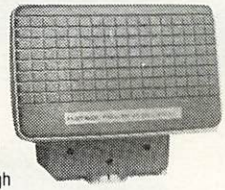
Just slip the Royce TS-133 into this porta-pack for the ultimate UHF portable. 14 hours use with full 5 watts output — runs for days on low 1 w setting. All the features and performance of the Royce in a heavy duty lightweight case.





JD-181

The 27 MHz 'baby' — SWR and power, solidly built and easy to use. Cheap insurance against high SWR.



RT-750

Very latest waterproof extension speaker. Ideal for outdoor use — courier bikes, marine two-way etc. It works inside the car and house, too!

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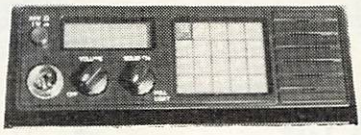

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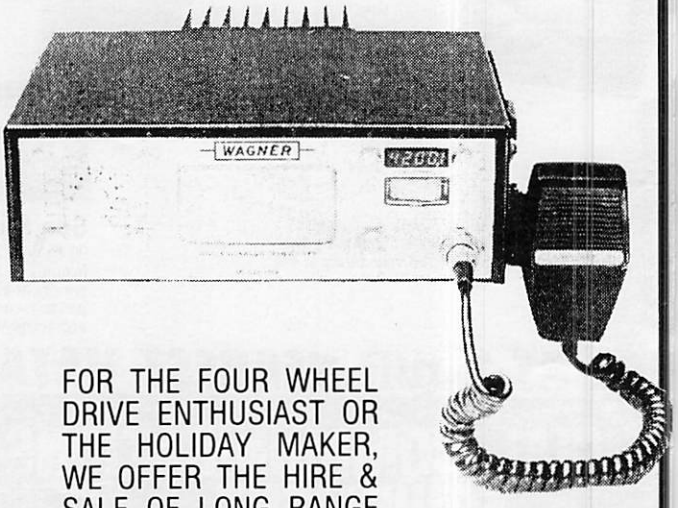

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Going to blazes!

A review of South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service communications

By Scanning Around's John Willmott

"Fire One - This is 241. We're about two kilometres away and the job's showing up well. Second alarm!"

With that brief transmission, the full resources of the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service SAMFS) are swung into action to deal with a serious conflagration.

On the fifth floor of the brigade's new $16 million dollar headquarters in the heart of Adelaide, the Communications Centre becomes a hive of activity as the duty operators activate electronic systems to turn-out appliances from a number of fire stations.

Within 60 seconds the first appliances announce that they're mobile.

"Fire One - 203 is K22!"

"204 also K22!"

"Roger 203 and 204. You're K22 to Port Road, Beverley. You have the King William Street north relay!"

Appliances from inner suburban stations quickly come on air and announce their movements. While some race to the burning factory, others move in to cover their areas.

Forty minutes after one of the operators received a '000' call announcing the fire he is acknowledging radio calls from appliances leaving the fireground to return to their stations.

The fire has been subdued with minimum damage to the factory because of the Brigade's fast response.

Origins

Today's fire service is a far cry from the 'bucket brigades' of the mid-19th century.

The SAMFS has its origins in the combined fire insurance brigade which was formed in 1859.

Twenty four years later the Colonial Government took over the management of the service at the time when the first steam 'engines' were becoming available for fire fighting.

At first, the primary requirement for enlistment was sea-going experience. Former sailors were thought to be readily able to handle the hours of duty (24 hours a day), the military style discipline and working at heights.

Following the First World War, management attitudes changed and much work was put into expanded training and new equipment. A system of 'talk-back' fire alarms was designed and installed in city and suburban streets.

World War Two saw the brigade's resources being used to train volunteers to deal with the fires expected to result from enemy air raids.

Many of the volunteers in the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) remained after the war to form the basis of today's Country Fire Service (CFS).

Communications

Radio communciations are a relatively new aspect of the brigade's structure, having been introduced in 1952.

Prior to that, officers in charge of appliances were required to carry a pocket full of pennies so they could telephone headquarters after they arrived at the fireground.

Radio was introduced in 1952 when twin channel AWA sets were installed in the brigade's vehicles.

Within the metropolitan area the sets worked reasonably well, but some dead spots around Port Adelaide were never overcome. The 25 watt FM sets were very large with the transmitters and receivers being separate units.

Many of the officers of the day had seen a great deal of service and were not entirely at home with the 'new fangled' equipment.

It is said that the first attempt to attend a fire with radios installed was less than successful.

As the appliance raced away from headquarters a voice on the radio said: "Come in!". The elderly officer in charge immediately ordered the driver to turn round and return to headquarters.

Arriving back in the engine room, the officer - sure that he'd done the right thing - received a hurried explanation of the term 'come in'.

Since that time there has been a considerable upgrading of equipment and procedures.

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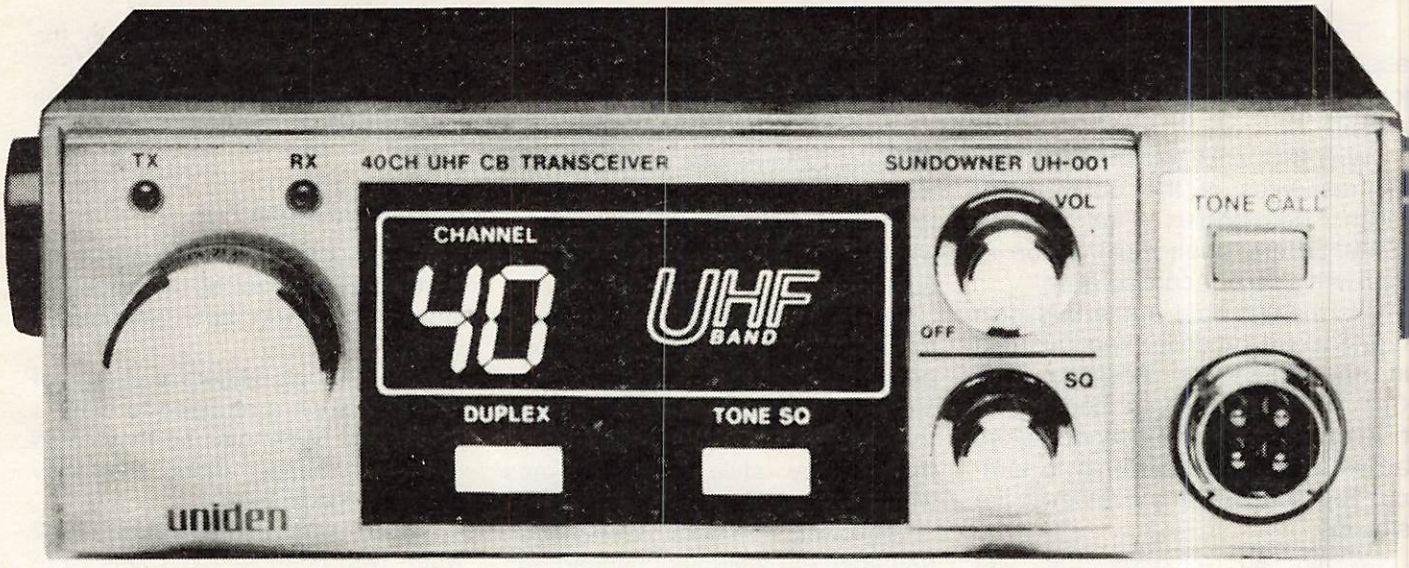
40 Channel UHF Personal Communications Transceiv



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pgrading

The SAMFS now operates five hannels under the call sign VL5FB.

Channels One to Four are used the metropolitan area, while hannel Five is used by auxilliary ews at 18 of the 19 country towns erved by the SAMFS.

Channel One is a general oper-ional frequency in the Adelaide ea. Northern appliances use hannel Three, while channel Four used by Central area appliances.

Channel Two is used for com-unications between appliances, etween handsets and appliances nd, at major fires, from handsets nd appliances to the Mobile Fire ommand (call sign '900'). The obile command uses another hannel to talk to headquarters.

Airport Fire Service units at the delaide International Airport have ccess to SAMFS frequencies.

Fire Command vehicle '900' ttends all major fires and provides he senior officer with a ommunications centre and an ffice/conference room.

Behind the driver's compart-ent, the conference room has a ld-down table and 'white boards'.

At the rear end of the vehicle here is a small but workable ommunications area.

On the fireground, the operator the focus of all messages in elation to the incident.

He has at his disposal six VHF ets, a mobile telephone, a fax achine and a scanner.

Using all that equipment he can ansmit and receive on each of the ervice's five channels, transmit and eceive on Citizens Band , make and eceive telephone calls on Tele-om's public telephone system, eceive facsimile documents and onitor the communications of ther emergency services.

Scanners are very visible in a umber of areas in the service. esides 900's PRO 2020, there is a earcat 20/20 prominent in the eadquarters Comms. Centre.

Copies of the 1987 South Aust-alian edition of the E.S.G. Fre-uency Register can be seen in oth the Comms. Centre and '900'.

The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) Communications Centre on the fifth floor of the headquarters complex is manned by a minimum of five operators 24 hours a day.

Accuracy

Upgrading of the equipment has been carried out in tandem with an ongoing programme of user training.

Introduced in 1983, the 'K' codes are designed to achieve uniformity and reduce 'on air' time to an absolute minimum.

The effectiveness of the codes can be judged by tuning in to VL5FB and listening to the smooth and brief transmissions.

Prior to the codes, you would have heard something like: "This is Headquarters pump 56. We've arrived. It's a two-car traffic accident with two injured. We request Ambulance and Police attendance".

With the codes, the message is simply: "202 - K55, K11-2, K14",

The time saved in transmission allows firefighters at the scene to get on with their task of saving life and property, and ensures that headquarters has sufficent information upon which to assess and act upon the need for support services and equipment.

Modernisation

Construction of the new headquarters complex saw the communications staff move from a small and dingy ground floor office in a 19th century building to a light and spacious fifth floor area in a modern building.

A minimum of five operators man the communications centre at all times.

Working from a three position console, they receive calls for assistance, despatch appliances and coordinate with other services.

Incoming calls are received on '000', a Telecom exchange line or by direct link from Police or CFS communications.

A computerised system monitors fire alarms installed in premises throughout the metropolitan area and gives an immediate read-out of alarms and faults.

As with any electronics system, the building installations do sometimes produce false alarms. Even if an alarm is believed to be in error, the operators despatch the full complement of men and equipment that has been previously assessed and recorded as necessary to deal with the risks involved in the premises.

On occasions, the headquarters alarm system activates and the crews reacy by driving their vehicles out of the engine room and position-

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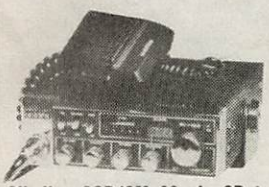

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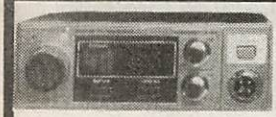

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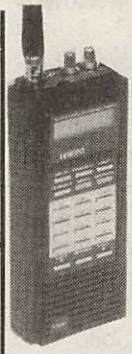

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in front of the building and in the l yard at the rear.

Each building is classed as being 'A', 'B' or 'C' risk, and each class uires a pre-determined response irst, second or third alarm level.

A first alarm requires a single mp for something like a small bish fire or a small petrol spillage, d two pumps for a house or shed .

A second alarm produces an mediate upgrading to a minimum four pumps and one aerial app- ice.

With a third alarm, the first stage mmits a large proportion of the ailable men and equipment. lunteers at CFS stations on the tropolitan fringe are put on stand-

The second stage sees CFS pliances and crews moving into MFS stations ready to respond to ls as part of pre-planned mutual procedures.

During major conflagrations like 1983 'Ash Wednesday' bush s the Joint Emergency Fire Ser- es Intelligence Centre (JESFIC) is ivated in a room adjoining the mms. Centre.

JESFIC acts as a central clearing use receiving information about progress of the fire. SAMFS, S, Police, Ambulance and the te Emergency Service all provide nior officers and operators to late emergency service intelli- nce.

It's all a far cry from the very bad s of 1939 when thousands of lian volunteers were trucked to s in the Adelaide Hills only to cover that the fires had moved on d that there was no central control d no communications.

As a result of those fires, the ergency Fire Service was formed ssist the full-time fire-fighters.

Today, the Country Fire Service d the SAMFS work together to n for and combat fires and other idents wherever they may occur he driest Australian State.

As with any fire service, the MFS is not content to mark time d is continually upgrading equip- nt to meet the fire menace.

SAMFS - 'K' Codes

9-1	Fatality - One
9-2	Fatality - Two
10	Persons reported in danger
10-2	All persons accounted for
11-1	Ambulance required - One casualty
11-2	Ambulance required - Two casualties
12	Electricity Authy. required
13	Gas company required
14	Police required
15	Fire Prevention required
16	Details to follow
18	Mobile to . . .
19	Available
20	Off and clear at Station
21	Arrived at change of quarters station
22	Responding to call
23	Appliance breakdown - Cannot proceed
23-2	Appliance in accident - Mobile
23-3	Appliance in accident - Not Mobile
26	Engaged for some time
27-1	One relief pump & crew required
27-2	Two relief pumps & crews required
28	Return to Station (Order from Comms.)
29	Senior officer responding
29-2	Senior officer in attendance
29-3	Senior off. leaving scene
29-4	Senior off. not proceeding
31-2	Available on radio
31-3	Radio check
32	Has the alarm cleared
32-2	Alarm has cleared
32-3	Alarm has not cleared
34	Repeat your message
35	Request map reference
36	Confirm address of call
37-1	Go to Ch.1 (168.820)
37-2	Go to Ch.2 (168.850)
37-3	Go to Ch.3 (168.250)
37-4	Go to Ch.4 (168.340)
37-5	Go to Ch.5 (168.880)
38	Phase 1 - Establishing initial control
38-2	Phase 2 Incident command established
38-3	Fire command established
40	Bomb alert
44	Arrived
55	Arrived - special service incident
66	Arrived - Rubbish, grass etc
77	Arrived - Nothing showing
88	Arrived - Small property fire
99	Arrived - Fire going well

STATION NUMBERS - Metropolitan

Central		North		South	
20	Headquarters				
21	Nth Adelaide	30	Gepps Cross		
22	Norwood	31	Ridghehaven	40	St. Mary's
23	Thebarton	32	Salisbury	41	Glenelg
24	Woodville	33	Elizabeth	42	O'Halloran Hill
25	Port Adelaide	34	Penfield	43	ChristiesDowns
26	Rosewater	35	Gawler	44	Glen Osmond
27	Marine Station	36	Glynde		
28	Semaphore				

APPLIANCE NUMBERS

1	First pump
2	Second pump
3	Skyjet
4	Support tender
5	Snorkel
6	Breathing apparatus tender
7	Turntable ladder
8	Foam tender / Grass fire unit
9	Salvage unit

e.g. '331' is Elizabeth (Station 33) first pump (1)

'INTERCEPTION' - Is it legal?

'Scanning Around' columnist John Willmott takes a look at the murky world of the law relating to the use of scanners.

Recent well publicised events have again raised the question: "Is it legal to monitor mobile 'phones?"

The short answer is NO!

We might alsc ask: "Is it legal to monitor general two-way communications", and come up with the answer YES.

Both answers would be simplistic and, in some circumstances, misleading.

Prior to 1983 the old Wireless Telegraphy Act made it an offence to 'intercept' any communciation passing through the ether and to then pass the information gained on to another person or to use the information for gain.

Under that Act, there was a prosecution of a Melbourne journalist which failed because the court took the view that interception and listening were not quite the same thing.

With the passage of the Radiocommunications Act of 1983, the Wireless Telegraphy Act was repealed and the new Act contained nothing similar to the earlier provision.

So, it was no longer an offence to monitor two-way conversations on the airwaves and pass the information on - but the monitoring of 'telephone' conversations was a different matter.

The Telecommunications (Interception) Act of 1979 makes it an offence to 'intercept' "a communication passing over a telecommunications system".

According to the Act, "interception" means "listening to or recording, by any means" a communication passing over a telecommunications system without the knowledge of the person making the communication.

There can be different interpreations as to what exactly constitutes a 'telecommunications system', despite the fact that there is a definition of the term in the Act.

I share the view expressed by E.S.G.'s Richard Barrett who states in the opening pages of his frequency registers: "It is an offence, without the permission of a Court, to listen to ***any*** *telephone . conversation".*

"It should be carefully noted that some frequencies assigned to organisations such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Overseas Telecommunications Commission may, from time to time, carry Telecom traffic."

"Such transmissions are protected by law and it is an offence to listen to them."

I would add the reminder that some commercial groups, and one or two government departments, have a telephone 'patch' on their two-way bases allowing direct access to Telecom lines. These too are protected by law!

If one is foolish enough to risk a maximum $5000 fine or two years incarceration it would be folly to compound the situation by passing something heard on to another party and attracting another $5000 or another two years.

While it is not illegal to monitor general two-way radio traffic, I can envisage circumstances in which Police might choose to prosecute because of what they see as inter ference with the performance c their duties.

Such a charge would b extremely difficult to prove to th satisfaction of a court - but not im possible!

If there is ever a successfu prosecution of somebody who ha listened to a telephone coversation predict that scanner owne generally can expect to receive fr quent and repeated questions fro over-eager members of th constabulary whose real concern w be police communications.

I can understand why Police a other organisations wish to prote their communications - but th must do so within the constraints the law of the day.

Back in the days of the Wirele Telegraphy Act, I and many othe were hassled by officious policem who had no grounds for believi that we had contravened the law.

They took the view that t ability to break the law was equal the commission of an offence.

Some people had their scann confiscated even though the 'co fiscation' was illegal and a gro abuse of police powers.

We could find ourselves in similar situation tomorrow unless scanner operators realise what law is and operate within confines.

Let us protect our right to lis by ensuring that we observe the and so deny ammunition to th who would destroy scanners imprison their operators.

Good listening!

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UHF NEWS

By GREG TOWELLS

Welcome to UHF news for this issue, and thanks to everyone who has written. Unfortunately, just after last issue's deadline had past, I received a couple of letters with information, so some comments were not totally correct regarding mail by the time the issue was published.

★ ★ ★

The Sydney repeaters are becoming more and more like battlefields lately and I doubt this problem is confined to this city. There is less of proper operating procedure and callsigns, and a dramatic increase in abuse, swearing and outright jamming and other destructive behaviour. The most senseless objective to appear of late is of local stations to inject the strongest possible signal into a repeater so as to totally dominate the repeater, blotting out weaker stations and so 'own' the repeater. The amount of money, time and effort some stations appear to put into this venture is almost beyond belief.

As usual, there is a total lack of action by the Department of Communications to stop this style of illegal operation. This only drives more operators to believe that the only way to go is to indeed to overpower everyone else on channel, and this only compounds the problem. Let's face it, jamming and other deliberate interference is illegal and destructive. I believe, that with so many operators having experienced the mess on 27MHz, that every user of the UHF CB band must make an effort to eradicate this type of operation from our band.

★ ★ ★

I know most people are thoroughly sick and tired of hearing about the continuing saga of the Ch 2/32 repeater and the apparent lack of interest or action on the part of the Western Raffle Club to press the repeater into operation. I am well aware of course, through past experience and more recently, Rod Fewster's regular enlightened supplements, of the Western Radio Club's community work by way of Salvation Army collections and various other projects. The only reason they don't get written up by Sydney based contributors is because the group does not seem interested in letting anyone know about their efforts.

However, back to the repeater, or lack of it. The latest situation is, not surprisingly, that the 2/32 Sydney repeater is still not operational, nor has it been at any time so far this year.

What might surprise readers is that the Department of Communications has allowed the renewal of the WRC's repeater licence, KUR-02, for the fourth year in succession, thus disregarding completely the failure of the club to establish a workable repeater at the licensed site at any time. This action is denying groups that are financially able and technically competent, to establish a usable metro repeater for Sydney UHFers.

It really makes you wonder what has to happen for DOC to cancel a repeater licence and open the way for groups that have the ability and enthusiasm to provide Sydney UHFers with a full coverage system.

My enquiries to DOC North Sydney regarding this situation revealed an astounding piece of Governmental logic. Apparently, there have been relatively few WRITTEN complaints to the Department re the non-operation of 2/32 repeater and the violation of one of the basic conditions of licensing — that of maintaining a reliable operational repeater on a regular basis. Therefore, DOC reasoned, since there were few complaints, the service offered must be satisfactory to the majority, so the licence was allowed to be renewed. Maybe it is hard to fault service when none is offered bu this serves to highlight one fact.

If you, the UHFer, are concerne about the lack of the 2/32 repeat er, or indeed, anything displease you about the regulation of the UH CB band, the only way to get any thing done is to put your greivance in WRITING to DOC. I particularl urge Sydney UHFers to protest t the Department about the 2/3 shambles. I understand, throug contact with the UHF Associatio of WA, there is a similar case of group in WA sitting on a repeate licence and not making any effor to erect a repeater, and the 2/3 debacle is viewed as a test case Effectively, groups such as thes are depriving the area of a repeate when others are more than willin and technically able to establish repeater for all.

It is not good enough to blea about all the other good things club has done in the past as an ex cuse for no action regarding a re peater. Either the group gets th repeater into operation or relin quishes the licence.

★ ★ ★

A number of readers have writ ten to me with questions about du plex operation on UHF CB. There seems to be a good deal of confu sion amongst newcomers to UH CB and I consider much of thi stems from retailers neglecting t inform the buyer about the func tions and capabilities of the new radio. Basically, there are two types of operation on UHF. First i the simplex mode, used when yo talk directly to your contact. In thi mode your radio transmits and re ceives on the one channel and i used when operating on channel not designated for repeater use i.e. channels 9 — 30, 39 and 40 Duplex mode is used for operatio through the many repeaters scat tered around the country. Whe duplex mode is selected, on chan nels 1 to 8 only, the radio will re ceive on the lower channel but wi TRANSMIT on the correspondin upper channel of 31 to 38. For ex ample, if your radio is receiving o channel 3 in the duplex mode, it wi then transmit on channel 33. If repeater is operational in your are on this channel, your signal will b simultaneously received on channe 33 and retransmitted on channel 3

A few hints for newcomer (and, it seems, quite a few regular

the band) are now in order. ease refrain from using channels to 8, or 31 to 38 in the simplex ode unless you are absolutely re there are no repeaters at all in ur area. To operate simplex on e uplink or downlink channel of a peater could result in interference ing caused to users of the device your area. Also note, many re-aters have a set time-out period er which the repeater will cut-out a short time. If your "over" ex-eds this time, your over will be t off and this cut-off will inconve-nce other users.

Always remember to leave a v second break between overs allow breakers to come in. They ght have an urgent message to t through, and, to intending eakers, wait until you are called in fore putting out your call — a le courtesy goes a long way.

★★★

UHF CB is alive and well and rving the community well around e Bega area, thanks to the Chan-6/36 repeater, courtesy of rm Honey Motors and Athol Mc-y. Athol has written to inform all the Ch 6/36 repeater, designed serve Bega and environs. The peater, sponsored by Athol Mc-y and Norm Honey Motors of ga, is situated at Mumbulla ountain, a few miles north of ga, and is performing beyond all pections. Coverage of Ch 6/36 ga has extended from Jervis Bay he north, to the Victorian border the south.

"This is going to be extremely uable for the business people of ga, plus valued communications the farmers, boating enthusi-s, any personal communications stems, and many other uses too merous to list" points out Athol. Many motorists from interstate ssing through Bega have put annel 6/36 to use, Athol re-rts, and all have commented fa-urably about the repeater's rformance.

Congratulations must go to nol McCoy, Bill Higgins of Eden ctronics and Joe Russell of Bega all the work and effort required establish a workable repeater.

★★★

The town of Wickham (approxi-tely 1600km north of Perth) has d the benefits of a repeater on F CB for the last 12 months, tes Jason Burns WAX431. This peater has been allocated chan-1/31 and has been established and maintained by the Wickham Radio Club.

The 1/31 repeater itself is a Philips FM828 unit and the antenna is a 6dB collinear. "Coverage seems to be very good", reports Jason, "with contacts of up to 200km distant being achieved."

What makes this repeater special is its power supply system. Power is obtained from a combination of an array of solar cells developing 4 amps in full sunlight and a wind generator producing 5 amps current output. The output from these is then fed to six 2 volt 200AH batteries.

Congrats to the Wickham Radio Club for the time and effort that must have gone into such a project. This just goes to show what a bit of effort can achieve, and thanks Jason for writing.

★★★

Some late but good news has landed on my desk, on the subject of Sydney's 2/32 'maybe' repeater. Captain Communications, in association with Miles Communications, have publicly announced their intention of applying for the KUR-02 repeater licence, currently held by the ailing Western Radio Club.

Unlike the present licensee, the Captains/Miles Communications team has rock solid financial backing along with the technical competency and determination to ensure the repeater would be brought into operation swiftly and remain there, to provide the reliable coverage envisaged by the original grant of the licence.

David Gill, of Captain Communications, emphasises that much work is being put into preparation of both the repeater and site with the intention of "doing the job properly" for Sydney's UHFers. Preparation is so far advanced that the repeater can by commissioned and on-air within days of DOC's reallocation of the channel 2/32 KUR-02 licence.

I certainly commend these two progressive companies on their forward planning and hard work, and I wish them all the best for their application for the KUR-02 licence and subsequent commencement of a truly Sydney wide repeater. I would also suggest that all Sydney UHFers put their support behind the Captains/Miles team to ensure that we are all still around to see Ch 2/32 become reality.

★★★

One rumour I have heard lately concerns a proposed repeater for the Northern Beaches area of Sydney. A group closely linked with one of the local radio stores appears to be looking into a possible Ch 4/34 repeater sited around the Terrey Hills area. Can anyone confirm this one for me, and let me know a little more about it? A repeater in that area would be a great asset, as it is a real dead spot as far as the present repeaters go.

Keep those letters coming please. Remember UHFers, this is your column. The address for any news and views is PO Box 358, Granville NSW 2142.

LATE NEWS:: Sydney's outer west and riverlands area is to benefit following the commencement of the area's newest repeater — COL 08, operating on channel 8/38. The repeater, established by the Riverlands Repeater Group, is situated at Lower Kurrajong and has solid coverage from Penrith to Richmond and Pittown. It can also be accessed from Liverpool to Blacktown, and to the Wiseman's Ferry area.

COL 08 consists of a Philips 828, with a difference. All stages have been physically separated and are housed in metal boxes. Operation is crisp and clear with a pip on the end of the tail, and two pips when operating on batteries. Time out is one minute and four pips sound when the repeater comes back on after a time out. Additionally, the ident does not sound when stations are in conversation.

The licence was granted to the Riverlands Repeater Group in October 1986, and the repeater has been in the testing stage until recently. The Riverlands Repeater Group spokesman, John NDU-607, says the group was totally dissatisfied with the Western Radio Club's lack of action with the 2/32 repeater project and this prompted planning and subsequent application for a repeater licence to cover the outer areas. He emphasises that 8/38 is only designed to cover the riverlands area and outer areas. That 3/33 provides marginal coverage and therefore additional coverage outside these areas is a bonus. So there you have it — Sydney's repeaters now number four.

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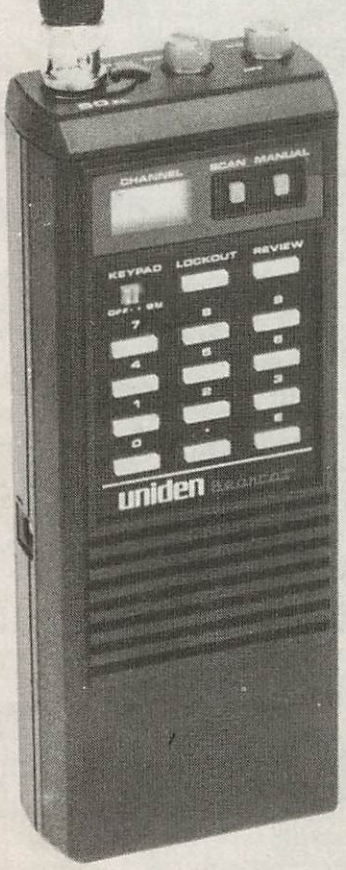

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VKC

Victorian Police radio communications

Compiled by John Willmott from information supplied by CB Action readers

'VKC' - the callsign of Victoria's police force - is well known to many CB Action readers.

This has been clearly shown in the many detailed responses received by 'Scanning Around' following my call in the last edition for information about the use of Police frequencies around the country.

To the many readers who contributed informatio gleaned from long hours of listening - thank you!

Perhaps readers in other States will get the messag and start sending some details to 'Scanning Aroun G.P.O. Box 1200, Adelaide 5001, South Australia.

My thanks to E.S.G. for permission to use details transmitter locations from their soon to be release 1987 edition of the Victorian Frequency Register.

VKC - UHF Channels and Frequencies

1	467.850	13	468.150	25	468.450	37	468.750	49	469.050	57	469.250
2	467.875	14	468.175	26	468.475	38	468.775	50	469.075	58	469.275
3	467.900	15	468.200	27	468.500	39	468.800	51	469.100	59	469.300
4	467.925	16	468.225	28	468.525	40	468.825	52	469.125	60	469.325
5	467.950	17	468.250	29	468.550	41	468.850	53	469.150	61	469.350
6	467.975	18	468.275	30	468.575	42	468.875	54	469.175	62	469.375
7	468.000	19	468.300	31	468.600	43	468.900	55	469.200	63	469.400
9	468.050	20	468.325	32	468.625	44	468.925	56	469.225	64	469.425
10	468.075	21	468.350	33	468.650	45	468.950				
11	468.100	22	468.375	34	468.675	46	468.975				
12	468.125	23	468.400	35	468.700	47	469.000				
		24	468.425	36	468.725	48	469.025				

The above freqs. are for transmit. Receive freqs. are 9.500 MHz LESS in each instance.

VKC - VHF Channels and Frequencies

1	168.220	3	168.280	5	168.400	7	168.250	9	168.370	?	168.175
2	168.340	4	168.160	6	168.190	8	168.310	10	168.520	?	168.235

Use of frequencies

The allocation of a frequency for use in a particular area is a theoretical exercise based on paper predictions of the expected transmission/reception capabilities of both fixed and mobile transmitters.

As a result of operational experience - or problems at a particular transmitter site - mobile and handset users in a Division may be instructed to use some channel other than the one originally assigned.

So, rather than list the use to which a frequency put today, I have shown the location of each transmitt on each frequency.

This allows the reader to see the potential for fr quency use in each area.

Therefore, when a particular Division changes its fr quency - and the new channel number is not known - quick look at the list will indicate the possible frequency.

Transmitter locations

(The term 'Vic Wide' indicates a frequency available throughout the State for car-to-car, handset-to-handset)

168.160 - Channel 4

Avoca	Buninyong	Gordon	Maryborough	Mt St Leonard	Trentham
Ballan	Creswick	Kyneton	Melbourne	Ringwood	Upwey
Ballarat	Daylesford	Lancefield	Mt Buninyong	Romsey	Woodend
Beaufort	Gisborne	Maldon	Mt Macedon	Skipton	

168.175 - Channel ?

Koroit Warnambool

168.190 - Channel 6 (car-to-car)

Melbourne Mt Dandenong Victoria Wide

168.220 - Channel 1

Apollo Bay
Beech Forest
Broadmeadows
Cobden
Cobram
Colac
Echuca
Forrest
Kanagroo Grd
Koroit
Kyabram
Lismore
Melbourne
Mooroopna
Mt Macedon
Mt Major
Nathalia
Numurkah
Port Campbell
Port Fairy
Preston
Rochester
Rushworth
Shepparton
Tatura
Terang
Timboon
Warrnambool

168.235 - Channel ?

Warragul

168.250 - Channel 7

Melbourne South Yarra

168.280 - Channel 3

Ararat
Bacchus Marsh
Bendock
Bunyip
Camperdown
Castlemaine
Dartmoor
Edenhope
Kalimna
Kaniva
Kooweerup
Lake Boga
Marysville
Melton
Mitta Mitta
Mortlake
Mt Macedon
Mt Nowa Nowa
Mt Porepunkah
Pakenham
Parkers Corner
Rosebud
Rye
Sorrento
Warburton
Werribee
Vict Wide

168.310 - Channel 8

Altona North
Ararat
Bass
Casterton
Coalville
Coleraine
Dartmoor
Edenhope
Elmhurst
Foster
Hamilton
Harrow
Heywood
Inverloch
Korumburra
Lake Bolac
Leongatha
Mangangatang
Meeniyan
Mirboo North
Moe
Morwell
Mt Bainbridge
Mt Macedon
Mt Richmond
Mt William
Neerim South
Penshurst
Phillip Island
Portland
Toora
Trafalgar
Traralgon
Warragul
Westmeadows
Wonthaggi

168.340 - Channel 2

Alexandra
Benalla
Broadford
Chesney Vale
Cranbourne
Dandenong
Dimboola
Donald
Eildon
Euroa
Ferntree Gully
Frankston
Hastings
Horsham
Jamieson
Kilmore
Mansfield
Melbourne
Minyip
Mornington
Mt Waverley
Mt Arapiles
Mt Dandenong
Mt Macedon
Mt Matlock
Murtoa
Nagambie
Nhill
Pyalong
Rainbow
Seymour
Stawell
Warracknabeal
Woods Point
Yea

168.370 - Channel 9

Anglesea
Bambill South
Beechworth
Beaulah
Birchip
Birregurra
Bright
Chiltern
Corindhap
Culgoa
Elmhurst
Geelong
Gisborne
Glen Waverley
Highton
Hopetoun
Lake Boga
Lara
Lorne
Merbein
Meredith
Mildura
Mitta Mitta
Mt Beauty
Mt Bellarine
Mt Benanbra
Mt Granya
Mt Macedon
Mt McKay
Mt Mitta Mitta
Mt Porepunkah
Mt Stanley
Murrayville
Myrtleford
Nyah West
Ocean Grove
Ouyen
Piangil
Portarlington
Queenscliff
Red Cliffs
Robinvale
Rutherglen
Sea Lake
Speed
Swan hill
Tallangatta
Torquay
Wangaratta
Whitfield
Winchelsea
Woomelang
Wycheproof
Yarrawonga
Vic Wide

168.400 - Channel 5

Box Hill Castlemaine Glen Waverley Hastings Melbourne Mt St Leonard

168.520 - Channel 10

Bairnsdale	Donald Knob	Kerang	Mt Livingstone	Omeo	
Bendigo	Dunnolly	Maffra	Mt Macedon	One Tree Hill	Wedderburn
Brigalong	Elmore	Mallacoota	Mt Nowa Nowa	Rosedale	Yarram
Bruthen	Gunbower	Mt Carrajung	Nugong	Sale	Vic Wide
Charlton	Heathcote	Mt Delegate	Mt Raymond	St Arnaud	
Cohuna	Heyfield	Mt Johnston	Mt Taylor	Swifts Creek	
Crowes	Inglewood	Mt Kerang	Northcote	Tarnagulla	

Interstate liasion

To facilitate liasion with the adjoining New South Wales and South Australian Police forces, VKC shares some frequencies.

The Police stations at Casterton and Kaniva have access to South Australian Police channel 3.

In the New South Wales border region various N.S.W. police stations are provided with access to VKC frequencies.

New South Wales

N.S.W. (VKG) stations at Berrigan, Charlestown, Finley, Jerilderie, Moulamein, Tocumwal and Urana have access to VKC on Ch.9 (168.370).

South Australia

VKC stations at Kaniva and Casterton have radio access to the S.A. Police (VKA) Ch. 3 (72.925).

VKC - Radio codes

1	On Patrol	24	Suspect on premises	47	Escapee - Civilian
2	In Office	25	Suspect disturbed	48	Explosion
3	At Station	26	Brawl	49	?
4	Away on vehicle check	27	Licence offence	50	Breaking
5	Away on premises check	28	?	51	Indecent exposure
6	At Court	29	Gaming offence	52	?
7	Mobile to office	30	Drunk	53	Hit & Run
8	Mobile to residence	31	Operational exercise	54	?
9	?	32	Drowning	55	Indecent assault
10	Domestic disturbance	33	Deceased	56	?
11	Armed suspect	34	Wilful damage	57	?
12	Vehicle accident	35	Knifing	58	Indecent behaviour
13	Ambulance	36	Larceny	59	?
14	Assault & robbery	37	?	60	Incident at . . .
15	Alarm - Silent	38	?	69	Homicide
16	Ambulance required	39	Suspicious vehicle	70	Smash & Grab
17	Alarm - Audible	40	Fingerprints	71	Special duty
18	Assault	41	?	73	Robbery
19	Officer requires assistance	42	Escapee - Military	74	Rape
20	Burgalry	43	Fire	78	Loitering
21	Vessel in trouble	44	?	79	Shooting
22	Provide transport	45	Escapee - Mental	80	Warrant at . . .
23	Peeping Tom	46	Drunk driver		

VKC - Patrol identification

200	Station car	600	Women Police	440-469	Boat squad	560-569	Gaming
300	Divisional van	700	Special Duty/Solo	470-499	Air Wing	570-599	Vice
400	Crime car	800	Foot Patrol	500-539	Licensing	600-699	Women
500	C.I.B.	900	Station radio				

UHF Transmitter locations

Ch 1
Anglesea
Clifton Springs
Highton
Mt Anakie

Ch2
Bass Hill
Coalville
Cooke Hill
Foster North
Mirboo North
Parker Corner
Warragul
Yarragon

Ch 3
Chesney Vale
Euroa
Mt Hickey
Mt Pleasant
The Paps

Ch 4
Daylesford
Maryborough
Mt Alexander
Mt Buninyong
Mt Macedon
Smeaton Hill

Ch 5
Mt Dandenong

Ch 6
Westmeadows

Ch 7
Glen Waverley

Ch 8
Vict Wide

Ch 9
Melbourne

Ch 10
Kangaroo Grd.

Ch 11
Glen Waverley
Kangaroo Grd.
Melbourne
Westmeadows

Ch 12
Melbourne

Ch 13
Altona North
Mt Blackwood

Ch 14
Mt Eliza

Ch 15
A'tonaNorth
Werribee

Ch 16
Melbourne

Ch 17
Emerald
MtDandenong
Mt Gordon
Mt St Leonard

Ch 18
Kangaroo Grd.

Ch 19
Mt St Leonard

Ch 20
Melbourne

Ch 21
Mt Dandenong

Ch 22
Mt Eliza

Ch 23
Melbourne

Ch 24
Melbourne
Mt Blackwood
Sunbury

Ch 25
Glen Waverley

Ch 26
Melbourne
Vict Wide

Ch 27
Arthurs Seat
Mt Eliza
Phillip Island

Ch 28
Glen Waverley
Mt Eliza

Ch 29
Melbourne
Vict Wide

Ch 30
Carlton
Vict Wide

Ch 31 (SES)
Melbourne
Mt Dandenong
Mt Dundas
Mt Stanley
Mt William
Vict Wide

Ch 32 (SES)
Melbourne
Mt Major
Mt Warrenheip
Mt Warrnambool
Mt Worth
Vict Wide

Ch 33 (SES)
Gnarwarre
Melbourne
Mt Alexander
Mt Arapiles
Mt Tassie
Vict Wide

Ch 34
Mt Eliza

Ch 35
Melbourne

Ch 36
Melbourne
PLUS R.A.N. at
HMAS Cerberus

Ch 37
Melbourne

Ch 38
Melbourne

Ch 39
Vict Wide

Ch 40
Mt Blackwood
Sunbury
Westmeadows

Ch 41
Sunbury

Ch 42
Phillip Island

Ch 43
Mt Dissapointment

Ch 44
Mt Victoria

Ch 45
Kangaroo Grd.
Melbourne
Mt Dandenong
Mt St Leonard
Vict Wide

Ch 46
Melbourne

Ch 47
Vict Wide

Ch 48
Arthurs Seat
Beaconsfield Up
Glen Waverley
Mt Eliza
Vict Wide

Ch 49
Melbourne
Westmeadows

Ch 50
Melbourne

Ch 51
Melbourne

Ch 52
Vict Wide

Ch 53
Melbourne

Ch 54
Melbourne

Ch 55
Kangaroo Grd.
Mt Dissapointment
Preston

Ch 56
Preston

Ch 57
Melbourne

Ch 58
Mt Dandenong

Ch 59
Glen Waverley

Ch 60
Melbourne
Vict Wide

Ch 61
Beaconsfield Up
Glen Waverley

Ch 62
Westmeadows

Ch 63
Melbourne

Ch 64
Mt Towt
Vict Wide

There are no plans for the extension of the existing UHF network.

Further articles on on frequency use by Fire, Police, Ambulance and other services are totally dependent on information supplied by CB Action readers.

Send details to: 'Scanning Around', G.P.O. Box 1200, Adelaide 5001, South Australia

CB ACTION/HATADI WORDMAZE COMPETITION

WIN A ROYCE TS-425 27 MHz AM MOBILE

All you have to do is find the names of ten items which you could expect to find in the shack of an enthusiastic CBer — especially if the CBer is into DX contacts.

These words may run horizontally, vertically, diagonally, forward, or backward.

Put your entry in a standard letter sized envelope and forward to:

CB ACTION/HATADI
WORDMAZE COMPETITION
GPO BOX 628E
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

to reach us no later than 22 May 1987.

A	S	B	C	D	W	E	F	G	H	P	I	J
Q	O	P	N	M	O	L	K	K	C	O	L	C
R	L	S	T	U	R	V	W	X	Y	W	Z	E
S	D	H	G	F	L	E	D	C	B	E	A	G
E	E	I	J	K	D	L	M	N	O	R	P	D
N	R	E	T	E	M	I	T	L	U	M	Q	I
O	Y	X	W	V	A	U	K	T	S	I	R	R
H	Z	A	B	C	P	O	D	E	F	K	R	B
P	O	N	M	L	O	K	J	I	H	E	G	E
D	P	Q	R	B	S	R	E	N	N	A	C	S
A	C	B	G	A	Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	I
E	N	O	I	T	C	A	B	C	D	E	F	O
H	L	J	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	P	A	N

The winner will be selected from all the correct entries which have been received up to and including that date.

The draw will be conducted in the offices of CB ACTION on the closing date, and the result will be published in the next issue of CB ACTION.

The winner will be notified by mail prior to the publication of that issue.

I believe that the hidden words are:

1.....(5,4)
2.....(10)
3.....(6)
4.....(10)
5.....(5)
6.....(5,3)
7.....(3,4)
8.....(5,6)
9.....(7)
10.....(2,6)

I would like to enter the CB ACTION/HATADI Wordmaze Competition.

I agree to abide by the judges decision.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Callsign (if any) .....

Telephone number .....

Signature .....

CHOOSING A UHF ANTENNA

ter finding the right UHF CB radio, you'd think it would get easier. Not so. The choice antenna, cable and even plugs depends on a number of factors, and it's important to pose correctly.

y DAVID FLYNN

ANDHELDS AND RTABLES

The standard antenna supplied n all UHF CB portables and dhelds is a simple quarter-wave p, with unity gain. In most in-nces this will perform well ugh for everyday use, in flat ain.

Many operators have chosen to a 3 dB 'flexi-whip', which has ome very popular with the in-sed use of portables over the few years. It is a five-eighth e antenna, generally 30 cm in th, which does provide a much roved signal.

This is in fact designed for por-e use, made to allow for the al case and groundplane of the able — of which there is very — as opposed to regular mo- whips, which expect a larger cle groundplane.

At around $30, the flexi-whip is obably the most used accessory any handheld or portable UHF

OBILES

Quarter-wave groundplanes are most basic of UHF mobile os — constructed of stainless el or wire (which gives more bility), they are very small. ir radiation characteristic is very n, in a 'tennis ball' pattern, with gh angle of radiation. This is best in very hilly country, using repeaters — it is ideal for carrying the mobile signal from a low point to a repeater on top of a mountain.

Best mounting position is anywhere in the middle of any groundplane which has the radius of the whip, and is unobstructed.

For less than $10, the quarter-wave is inexpensive and works well.

Centre-load helical whips are the next step up, with gain figures varying from 3 dB — 4.5 dB. They are commonly half-wave phased or a straight-forward five-eighth wavelength.

For about $20, these give you the best of both worlds — a relatively good car-to-car or direct range in flat areas, as well as a good angle for repeater coverage.

Dipoles are the next step, from a fairly middle-of-the-road 3 dB, to high-gain centre-loaded whips such as the 6 dB Hoxin or Electrophone models, which retail around the $70-$80 mark.

Once again, the higher gain figures cause a flatter radiation angle, and more ground-plane aspect of the signal. Longer direct range is achieved over flat terrain, but mobiles who operate in hilly areas would find this to be a disadvantage — especially where repeaters are concerned.

However, as dipoles, they do not require a groundplane. Sometimes referred to as 'groundplane independent' whips, this makes them preferable depending on the constraints of your installation.

Mobile colinears are another high-gain mobile antenna, but are actually a 6 dB base antenna with a mobile mounting point suitable for vehicle installations. They are often used on four wheel drives and other vehicles which go 'outback'.

Because of the capture area and relatively high gain, the colinear gives you a long-range simplex coverage. This is of course not ideal for repeater use, but in cases where the user is going 'bush', there aren't repeaters in any event.

Ideal for flat country areas (for example, the NSW outback), the mobile colinears help in being able to talk to the UHF base at the homestead or station which may be perhaps 15-20 km distant.

BASE STATIONS

The choice of a suitable UHF base antenna is much simpler than that of a mobile. Base aerials are normally of 'colinear' design, and the main variant (outside of construction and materials used) is their gain.

Most common figures are 6 dB, 9 dB and 12 dB — and the right antenna for them depends primarily on the surrounding terrain.

...OSING A ...UHF ANTENNA

As a rule, the flatter the land or coverage desired, the less gain required. It is not unusual for operators to assume 'bigger is better', or go for the most expensive antenna there is. But, if you are on top of a hill or a mountain, this is a big mistake — the high-gain signal will fire straight over the heads of others, and not hit earth for some distance. If you are in a high location, a flat, low angle of radiation will give good blanket coverage.

Without an all-round pattern, which extends downwards as well as away from the antenna, stations nearby find themselves in a 'shadow'.

Beams are ideal for UHF, from every viewpoint. Mechanically, they are small and light-weight, easy to support and rotate. As the size of an antenna is linked to the wavelength, extremely high gain figures are possible from a very small beam on UHF, compared to the cumbersome arrays needed for even a low-gain 3-element beam on 27 MHz.

The number of elements on the UHF beam directly relates to its gain.

Most basic are the 6-element 9 dB models (approx. $100); then the 9 element, 12 dB ($150) and the 16 element 15 dB version ($200).

With beam antennas, however, the gain figure has a slightly different meaning. It best refers to the concentration of the signal in the given direction — the higher the gain, the narrower the signal lobe.

Stations who need to achieve that little extra distance to access a repeater or local region find that a UHF beam makes all the difference. Also, direct communications between two fixed points not only harnesses the limited output of the UHF CB more effectively, but also cuts down on interference from other stations which may be on the same frequency, but are not along the direct path between the two stations.

The use of horizontal polarisation on the beams, as opposed to vertical polarization (used by omnidirectional mobile and base aerials), can also minimise this interference factor.

CABLE

Too many times overlooked, cable is considered by many to be the most important part of the installation. There are four common cable specifications, each of 50 ohm impedance, and their loss figures are quoted for a 100 ft (30m) run.

Thinnest, and used for mobile installations, is the RG-58 — which is available as RG-58U (13.5 dB loss), or the superior RG-58C/U.

This is clearly unsuitable for long cable runs in the UHF band, although its loss figures are more respectable at 27 MHz. Each 3 dB point represents a loss or gain of 50 percent of the power, depending on whether the figure is gain (in an antenna such as a beam) or a loss (in cable).

So, over a run of even 15 metres, there is very little of the original 5 watt signal being fired from the antenna.

The use of a linear is no real solution to this. Sure, it boosts the power output to compensate for cable loss, so perhaps you are getting your original 5 watts back out the stick.

But loss is effective for reception as well as transmission — and so a received signal is easily halved in strength from the antenna to the UHF CB radio. And there is no way of recovering this at the rig — you can't boost what isn't there.

In practical terms — take a signal of 0.5 uV at the antenna, strong enough for your rig to pull in. Halve it, due to cable loss, and you're left with 0.25 uV by the time it gets to the radio — below the threshold and capabilities of most UHF sets, and the signal can't be heard.

RG-213 cable represents an improvement of massive proportions, with a loss factor of only 5 dB over 100 ft.

But, after adding connectors and allowing for some tolerance in measuring the loss, an effective figure of 6 dB can be reached. Over a full 100 ft run, this translates into '5 watts in, 1¼ watts out'.

RG-213 is most commonly used for UHF base stations. A cable run of perhaps 20 metres is not uncommon on UHF, especially when operators erect tall masts to try and maximise antenna height and therefore coverage. Provided the better part of the run is vertical (up the mast), the benefits of height can compensate for cable loss, but only to a degree.

Over 20 metres, for example, you are approaching a loss of 3 dB, or halving your power — 5 watt out of the rig becomes 2½ watt from the antenna.

The most efficient cable fo UHF, both in terms of cost an loss, is 10DF-B, with a loss of 2. dB per 100 feet — half of the los of RG-213.

The other rules are to keep cabl runs as short as possible, an never 'loop' or coil the spare cabl

CONNECTORS

So often, the weakest link in th chain — which is especially annoy ing if the operator spends almos $600 on the UHF rig and powe supply, another $100 on an aeria $3.00 per metre on RG-213 — an scrimps on the connectors.

There are three common con nectors used for UHF CB — BN (used for handhelds and portables PAL (only seen on the Philips FM 320 and FM-620 models) and PL 259.

The PL-259 is by far and awa the 'standard' UHF CB connecto irrespective of its higher loss an poorer quality than BNC, N-type o similar commercial fittings.

Regular PL-259s are of a fair low cost, and will basically do th job — although their mechanic reliability is not the greatest.

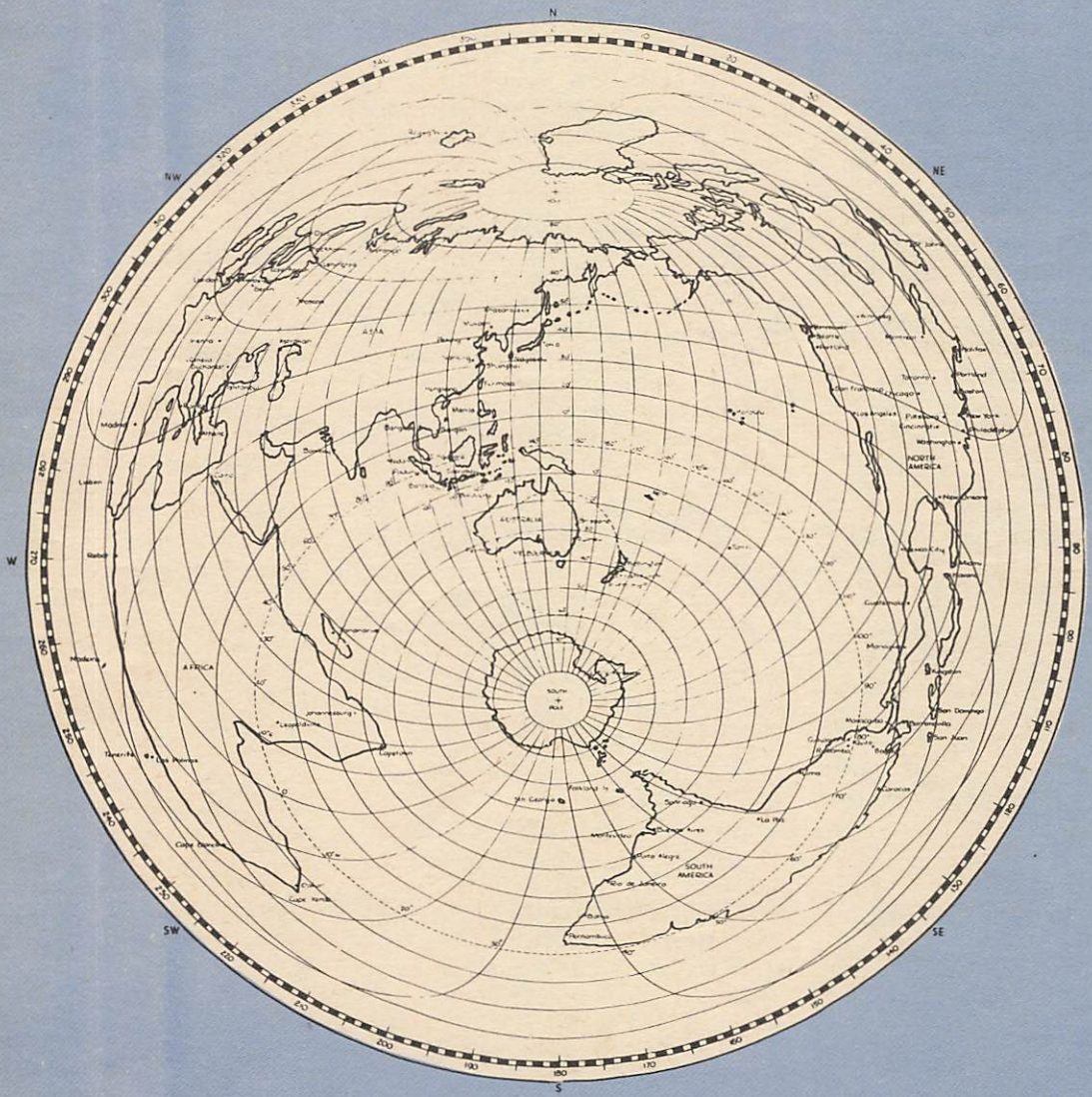
ACME connectors are the mo expensive PL-259 fittings although they have a number o drawbacks. Their large size is ofte inconvenient for mobile install tions where space is at a premiun High cost and complexity of a sembly are others, although it is – in the final analysis — a goo connector.

The newest version of the P 259 is the advanced 'Teflock'-25 plug — which is in fact local made, an 'Australian innovation The Teflock-259 has caught o very well in UHF circles due to number of factors. It is no larg than the standard PL-259, yet is f easier to fit. The connection much more reliable, as it ancho the braid.

It can also be either clamped soldered, is re-usable, and cheap than ACME connectors, but wi no discernable difference in loss

Remember, choosing the rig antenna system is as important choosing the right radio, if n more so. The ultra-high frequenci are not known for their forgivi nature, when it comes to mistake But do it right, and you'll get t very best out of 477 MHz.

CB ACTION QUARTERLY CRYSTAL BALL PREDICTION FOR 27MHz DX



BEAM HEADINGS

Tie a piece of cotton to a pin. Place the pin on the map of Australia as near as possible to your location, and extend the cotton through the area or country which you would like to listen to or contact. Read off the bearing from the perimeter scale. This is your beam heading.

THE CB ACTION QUARTERLY CRYSTAL BALL

JUNE 1987

SYDNEY-JAPAN 7821 km

SYD-MIDDLE EAST 12,906 km

SYD-CENT. EUROPE 16,090 km

SYD-STH. AFRICA 11,033 km

SYD-C&E COAST USA 15,712 km

SYD-W. COAST USA 11,947 km

SYD-WEST INDIES 14,902 km

SYD-STH. AMERICA 13,180 km

SYD-NTH. AFRICA 17,109 km

SYDNEY-PNG 2750 km

SYD-ENGLAND SR 16,985 km

SYD-W. AFRICA SR 16,055 km

SYD-ENGLAND LR 23,038 km

SYD-W. AFRICA LR 23,969 km

PERTH-JAPAN 7921 km

PERTH-MIDDLE EAST 10,081 km

PTH-CENT. EUROPE 13,575 km

PERTH-STH. AFRICA 8308 km

PTH-C&E COAST USA 18,814 km

PTH-W. COAST USA 14,739 km

PTH-WEST INDIES 17,983 km

PTH-STH AMERICA 14,569 km

PERTH-NTH. AFRICA 13,941 km

PERTH-PNG 4076 km

PERTH-NZ 5258 km

PTH-ENGLAND SR 14,474 km

PTH-W. AFRICA SR 13,025 km

PTH-ENGLAND LR 25,550 km

PTH-W. AFRICA LR 26,998 km

MELB-PNG 3166 km

BRIS-PNG 2100 km

HOBART-PNG 3722 km

ADELAIDE-PNG 2970 km

BRIS-NZ 2507 km

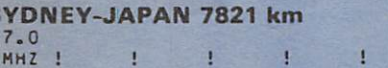
ADEL-NZ 3217 km

DARWIN-NZ 5322 km

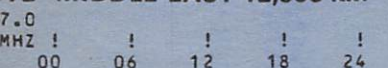
CRYSTAL BALL

JULY 1987

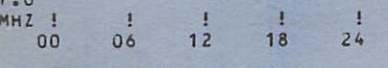
SYDNEY-JAPAN 7821 km



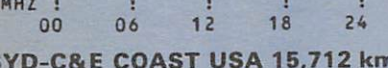
SYD -MIDDLE EAST 12,906 km



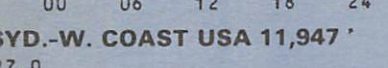
SYD -CENT. EUROPE 16,090 km



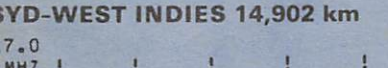
SYD -STH. AFRICA 11,033 km



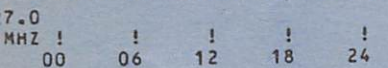
SYD-C&E COAST USA 15,712 km



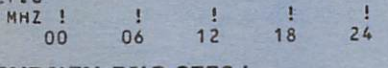
SYD.-W. COAST USA 11,947 '



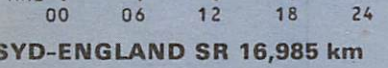
SYD-WEST INDIES 14,902 km



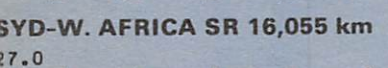
SYD-STH. AMERICA 13,180 km



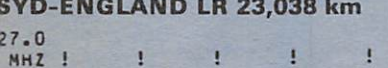
SYD-NTH. AFRICA 17,109 km



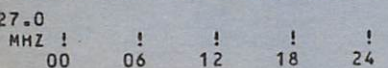
SYDNEY-PNG 2750 km



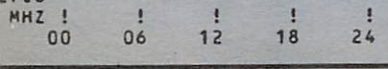
SYD-ENGLAND SR 16,985 km



SYD-W. AFRICA SR 16,055 km



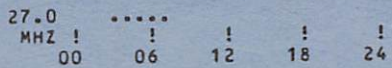
SYD-ENGLAND LR 23,038 km



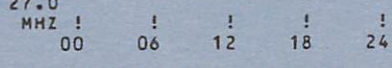
SYD-W. AFRICA LR 23,969 km

PERTH-JAPAN 7921 km

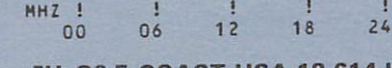
PERTH-MIDDLE EAST 10,081 km



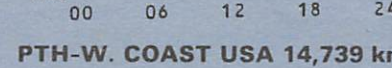
PTH-CENT. EUROPE 13,575 km



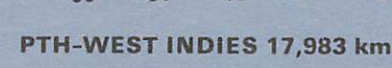
PERTH-STH. AFRICA 8308 km



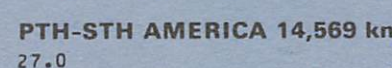
ΓH-C&E COAST USA 18,614 km



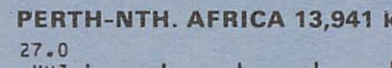
PTH-W. COAST USA 14,739 km



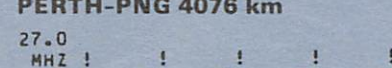
PTH-WEST INDIES 17,983 km



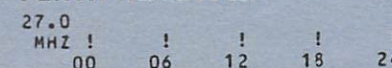
PTH-STH AMERICA 14,569 km



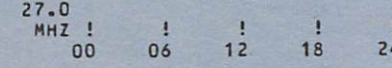
PERTH-NTH. AFRICA 13,941 km



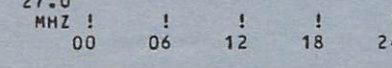
PERTH-PNG 4076 km



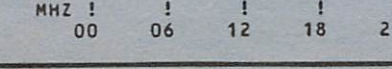
PERTH-NZ 5258 km



PTH-ENGLAND SR 14,474 km

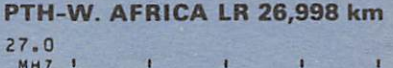


PTH-W. AFRICA SR 13,025 km

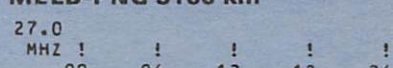


PTH-ENGLAND LR 25,550 km

PTH-W. AFRICA LR 26,998 km

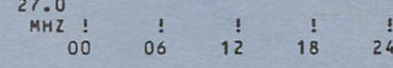


MELB-PNG 3166 km

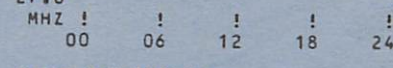


BRIS-PNG 2100 km

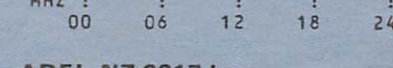
HOBART-PNG 3722 km



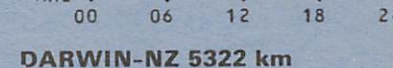
ADELAIDE-PNG 2970 km



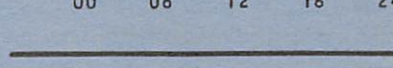
BRIS-NZ 2507 km



ADEL-NZ 3217 km



DARWIN-NZ 5322 km



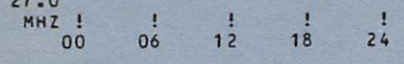
LEGEND TO GRAFEX SYMBOLS

- ''A blank means propagation is not possible normally.
- ' ' Propagation is possible but probably on less than 50% of the days of the month.
- '%' Propagation is possible on between 50% and 90% of the days of the month.
- 'F' Propagation is possible by the First F mode on at least 90% of the days of the month unless there is a severe ionospheric disturbance.
- 'M' Propagation is possible by both the first and second F modes. The strongest mode is normally the first mode but the vertical aerial pattern may influence the mode received.
- 'S' Second mode but no first mode.
- 'A' High absorption i.e. above the ALF but probably too close to it for good communication.
- 'X' Complex mixture of modes including the second E mode.

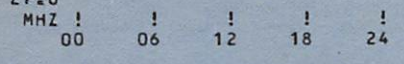
CRYSTAL BALL

AUGUST 1987

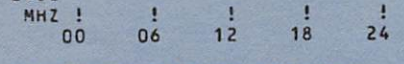
SYDNEY-JAPAN 7821 km



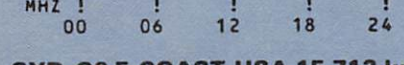
SYD-MIDDLE EAST 12,906 km



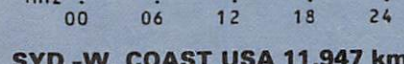
SYD-CENT. EUROPE 16,090 km



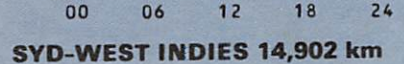
SYD-STH. AFRICA 11,033 km



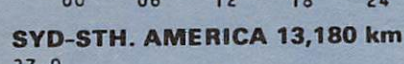
SYD-C&E COAST USA 15,712 km



SYD.-W. COAST USA 11,947 km

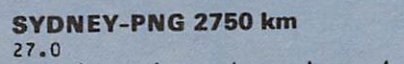


SYD-WEST INDIES 14,902 km

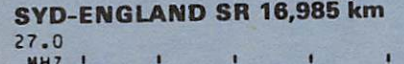


SYD-STH. AMERICA 13,180 km

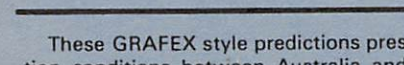
SYD-NTH. AFRICA 17,109 km



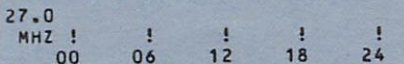
SYDNEY-PNG 2750 km



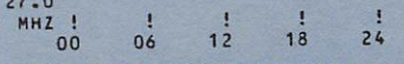
SYD-ENGLAND SR 16,985 km



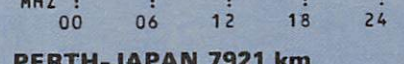
SYD-W. AFRICA SR 16,055 km



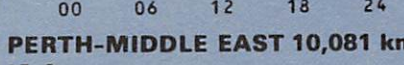
SYD-ENGLAND LR 23,038 km



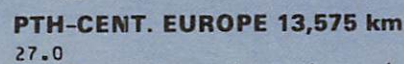
SYD-W. AFRICA LR 23,969 km



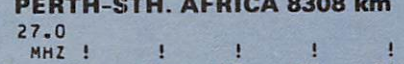
PERTH-JAPAN 7921 km



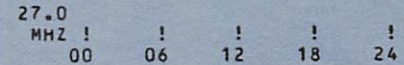
PERTH-MIDDLE EAST 10,081 km



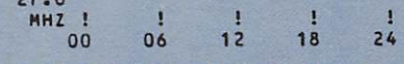
PTH-CENT. EUROPE 13,575 km



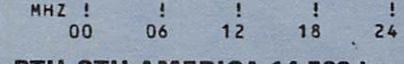
PERTH-STH. AFRICA 8308 km



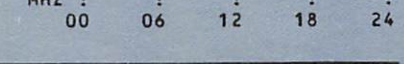
PTH-C&E COAST USA 18,614 km



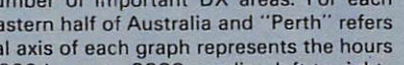
PTH-W. COAST USA 14,739 km



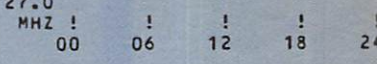
PTH-WEST INDIES 17,983 km



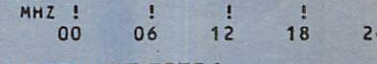
PTH-STH AMERICA 14,569 km



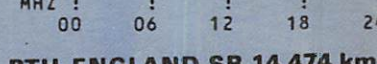
PERTH-NTH. AFRICA 13,941



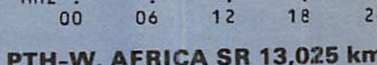
PERTH-PNG 4076 km



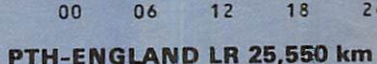
PERTH-NZ 5258 km



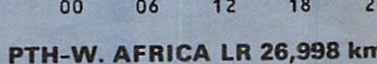
PTH-ENGLAND SR 14,474 km



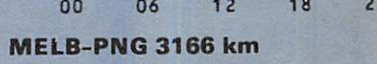
PTH-W. AFRICA SR 13,025 km



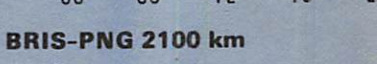
PTH-ENGLAND LR 25,550 km



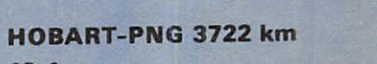
PTH-W. AFRICA LR 26,998 km



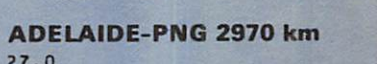
MELB-PNG 3166 km



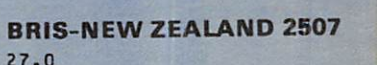
BRIS-PNG 2100 km



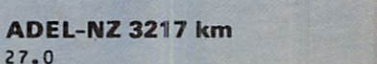
HOBART-PNG 3722 km



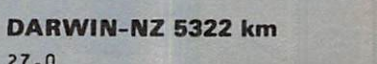
ADELAIDE-PNG 2970 km



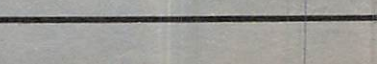
BRIS-NEW ZEALAND 2507



ADEL-NZ 3217 km



DARWIN-NZ 5322 km



These GRAFEX style predictions present in pictorial form the expected HF propagation conditions between Australia and a number of important DX areas. For each circuit, the "Sydney" terminal refers to the eastern half of Australia and "Perth" refers to the western half of Australia. The horizontal axis of each graph represents the hours of the day in Greenwich Mean Time from 0000 hours to 2300, reading left to right.

A GRAFEX symbol represents the predicted propagation conditions at a particular time. The meaning of each symbol used is given in the key on the next page. The letter "F" designates the best conditions for HF communications.

Grafex prediction charts supplied courtesy of the Ionospheric Prediction Service, 162-166 Goulburn Street, Darlinghurst, NSW. IPS offers pre-recorded telephone information. To access the service, please phone (02) 269 8614.

Ionospheric Prediction Service is a section of The Department of Science and Technology.

NDUSTRY REPORT

BILL BRODIE'S ANCS By DAVID FLYNN

I spent the majority of my years in Blacktown, an outer-western suburb of Sydney. at's where I discovered CB radio. And in every town, you've got that sacred pantheon institutions — the Radio Club, the CB shop, the serviceman — part of CB for everyone the band.

Our serviceman was Bill Brodie, who still runs his sales and service home-industry, nateur & Novice Communications Supplies.

The company was first regis-ed in August 1975, before ich Bill spent many years in the nsport industry. There was a ety element, a security that CB io — still a highly illegal activity il then, with a growing 'under-ound' following — was found to vide.

The market for gear was so poor t Bill at first used a few hand-ds on the 27 MHz marine band. "These of course proved so ccessful that I started looking for ter products," recalls Bill almost years later, "and that's how it started. Someone saw the walk-talkies, and wanted to buy me. I sold him mine and bought other few, and it started from re."

As time passed, Brodie began to lise the impact which CB radio s going to have in Australia.

Shortly afterwards, the fight for radio became public, and the dia were on the side of the un-rdog, fuelled by the anti-authori-ian and almost romantic aspects CB, and what it meant to people the truckies.

Starting with an agency for esu, the company moved on to opt Icom as their chosen line — produce which Brodie holds in h regard.

The only other brand which ICS now sell are the Sawtron F CB radios, which Brodie en-ses to be the very best trans-ver on the 477 MHz market day.

Much of this, of course, is to the dit of Imark, and the designers the Sawtron series.

The other UHF unit which ANCS ck is the IC-40. What is not w to many UHFers — although rt of the history of the band, and andmark in its development — is role played by many people odie amongst them) in the cre-on of the most popular of ndhelds.

Icom had, for years, a best-seller the UHF amateur stakes. Their compact, robust IC-4E was established as the handheld on the 430 MHz, 70 cm band.

At a time when no one had seriously thought about UHF CB handhelds, Brodie — like many other technicians and enthusiasts — saw a need for one.

"But I wanted a good product, which the IC-4E was, and so began modifying them to 477 MHz. Understandably, Icom took a dim view of this, because they were oriented completely to doing 'the right thing'. And I took the other view, that if the product is there, why not utilise it?"

Brodie has moved out of selling 27 MHz gear, although he still provides service for HF CB.

"To be successful in anything, you've got to specialise in a product, get to know the product thoroughly. Being a one-man show I find I can only concentrate on a certain amount of things. So I chose the products I could devote most of my time to. In the UHF CB field, these were the Sawtron products and IC-40 handheld. In the amateur field, it's the Icom range."

This also is a decision affected by the need to service the equipment.

"I don't like to send a product back to the manufacturer for service," Brodie says. "I like to do all my own service here, as far as possible. Therefore I carry a great range of spare parts for the products I sell, and that helps too.

Which is the larger part of ANCS — service or sales?

"I think service is the biggest part, because it's very time consuming! But mostly because the products we see now are becoming so expensive, especially the higher quality radios. So people are sticking to older radios longer, and there's more demand for service, because people would rather upgrade the product than sell it."

ANCS also offers a different type of service to most technicians and repair shops.

"My experience is that it doesn't matter what the fault in the radio is, or what parts you repair — the person only sees the fact that the radio doesn't work. So I decided a long time ago that it wasn't worth repairing the fault in the radio and handing it back to the customer, only to have something else which was wrong with the transceiver being regarded as a fault you had not repaired — even though that wasn't the original fault."

"So we decided that every transceiver that comes in for repair doesn't just get the actual fault repaired. First, we fix the fault that it came in with. Then we set it up on the test bench, and run through a sequence of tests. We tune up the transmitter and receiver, and guarantee the entire radio for a period of ninety days."

To CBers, Bill Brodie offered two pieces of advice.

I asked if one concerned the dangers of 'backyard' CB technicians.

"Well, seeing that I work from home, I'm a 'backyarder' myself!" laughs Brodie. "But I don't class myself as a backyarder, I class myself as a professional." (One look at the ANCS test equipment, work bench and spare parts stock is proof of this).

"I see so many radios which have been taken to the bloke who's got a soldering iron and a voltmeter, who calls himself a service technician. Half the time he does more damage to the radio than the original fault.

So, if you've got a rig, take it to an experienced, qualified technician with the right gear for the job.

If you don't have a CB radio, but are about to buy one?

Shop around, and take your time, cautions Brodie. "Dont' rush into it, don't just walk into a shop and buy the first thing off the shelf.

"Buy your radio from someone who's been in the business for a while, and appears to be a reputable person."

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SCANNING AROUND

By JOHN WILLMOTT

ollowing my last column, I have ived a number of very helpful onses about State Police fre- ncies and their use.

Unfortunately, all the replies e been about Victoria and New h Wales.

Have Queensland, Tasmania, t Australia and the Northern itory disappeared off the map?

Come on! We're all in this ther. Let's pool all our inform- n so we can get the most out of chosen hobby.

Send me a list of Police fre- ncies in your area. Give channel bers and the codes that are d!

Don't be shy. And don't restrict rselves to Police frequencies. me know about Fire, Ambulance State Emergency Services.

f you all keep the little bits that know strictly to yourselves, 'll never find the bits that you're sing!

As the information comes in I'll ck it and run a series of articles ng out the whole picture. The of them is in this issue.

* * * * *

Of recent weeks I've come to the lisation that I've been in the nitoring business for so long that been taking it for granted that are all as aware as I am of the s and pitfalls of scanning.

This has been brought home to by letters claiming that the quency registers on sale at the ment completely ignore Police F frequencies between 489.250 490.850.

They don't ignore them. The fre- ncies don't exist!

It is true that some scanners will eive Police transmissions and play frequencies around 489-).

What you're hearing and what you're seeing are not the same things.

I don't pretend to understand the internal workings of scanners but I do know - from bitter experience - that early scanners frequently displayed a frequency other than the one that the set was actually receiving.

Some of today's less expensive scanners have the same problem.

Generally, they are relatively cheap because the manufacturer has not spent the few extra dollars necessary to achieve an acceptable degree of signal selectivity.

If you're getting those Police signals around 489/490 MHz you'll probably find that your set is in the lower price range and the specifications show the IF selectivity or rejection as 10.7 MHz.

Double that figure - 21.4MHz - - and then subtract it from the frequency displayed. Voila! You've got the true frequency.

An example would be that a signal displayed as 490.150 is, in fact, a frequency of 468.750.

It's called an 'image'.

* * * * *

For scanner owners who like to try everything new on the market, the last three months of 1987 will probably present the opportunity of doing some Christmas shopping.

Released in the United States earlier this year, the Dynascan Corporation's 'Cobra' scanners join a line of well-proven CB radios.

It is said that there will be two hand-helds (one 16 channel, one ten channel) and two desktop base models.

Distribution in Australia is expected to be by Pearce-Simpson.

No indications yet as to price!

* * * * *

A Melbourne reader advises that a local policeman told him that, while scanning of Police frequencies is not illegal, the passing on of information is "frowned" upon.

If telephoning a fellow scanner operator to talk about something you've just heard or calling the local radio station to tell them of a fire or accident is to be 'frowned' upon, then you can expect to see a lot of police persons with permanently furrowed brows.

The only thing that it is illegal to monitor is a 'phone conversation!

That means mobile 'phones, Telecom relays for other calls, OTC, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and any other frequencies carrying Telecom controlled/generated traffic.

Having said that, there's nothing to stop State or Federal Police prosecuting anybody who they believe has hindered them in their investigations - intentionally or not!

So, think before you act.

* * * * *

I'm begining to wish that I'd got into the business of producing frequency registers, although I'm not sure I could face the thousands of hours that must go into their compilation.

I hear that E.S.G. are about to announce a giant 1000+ page VHF-UHF frequency register covering the whole of Australia.

It will sell at about $100, that's one-third off the price of the indivdual State/Territory registers!

Presentation is expected to be in two loose-leaf ring binders.

* * * * *

SCANNING AROUND,
G.P.O. Box 1200,
Adelaide 5001
South Australia

COROWA—

THE TOWN THAT RUNS ON CB

David Flynn takes us to a NSW country town which illustrates the potential of UHF CB radio
Photography by Scott Mantle

Picture yourself in the middle of a town where UHF CB is used as much as the telephone. Where the average base station can access up to six repeaters — and use them to order farming supplies, call the police, contact the plumber or electrician, or even book a motel room.

Surely this could only happen in Melbourne, the entrenched 'RF capital' of Australia — where the industry, clubs and magazines lead the way for less enlightened UHFers.

Or maybe Sydney, the more rebellious spoilt-child when it comes to 477 MHz, has suddenly stolen the spotlight.

Well, you're wrong both times. Try heading inland to Albury-Wodonga, the twin cities which straddle the borders of NSW and Victoria. Then go west, along the Riverina Highway. A leisurely hours' drive, and you are in Corowa. The birthplace of Federation, heart of the Murray tourist region, and the town that runs on UHF.

Let's take those accolades in order.

In 1893, Corowa hosted a meeting of representatives from the states, at which the concept of national administration and state unity was proposed. A resolution passed that day led to the formation of the Commonwealth of Australia some eight years later.

Situated on the Murray River, Corowa is historically linked with Rutherglen, a vineyard-rich Victorian town 11 km south across the Murray. Originally no more than a convenient stop-over, the area has since developed into a popular destination for tourists of both states. With a constantly warm and sunny climate, tourism has become a major part of Corowa — tripling the population during holiday season, when couples and families take time out at a relaxed pace.

It is also, as I discovered during a recent visit, the best example of the potential of CB radio that I've ever seen.

The man in the middle of it all is Gary Reeves, who runs the local radio-electronics shop (featured in last issue's Industry Report). And surrounding him — representatives from the entire community. Local government, volunteer and professional emergency services, private and commercial users, truck drivers — even a few hobbyists!

When he arrived in Corowa some four years ago, Gary found only the barest penetration of UHF CB — or any form of two-way radio.

Gary's first step was to install a repeater, which had the same effect in Corowa as it has all around Australia. 477 MHz took off.

The repeater, on ch. 1/31, was in fact the first in country NSW. In and around Corowa, others followed.

"We're sort of blessed with the number of repeaters" says Gary. His own 1/31 is designed for local coverage, and is the main channel for Corowa UHF adherents. 2/32, 50 km north-east at Walbundrie, is easily accessible.

3/33 Euroa also comes in well for base stations, as does Albury ch. 4.

6/36, at Wangaratta, has ex lent long-range capabilities, an heavily used by the Corowa fra nity when mobile outside the to Shepparton's 7/37 is more dep dent on conditions. But, by standard, that's a fair complem of repeaters.

Using the network to its ful advantage, mobiles can work n to Wagga, and south to Seym and Myrtleford. Base station Corowa can expect to cover best part of a 200 km radius, w out dificulty.

But the key to Corowa's brace of UHF CB is not the sh volume of repeaters within ran Rather, it is the quality — or qu ties — of the medium itself, wh make it attractive to people fr every facet of the town.

Businesses have always b quick to recognise the benefits UHF CB. Compared to commer two-way systems, it is cheaper for the price of most commer UHF transceivers, you can buy t 477 MHz rigs. The range is com rable, and repeaters on UHF CB free — not so with leased s tems. The amount of users channel is fewer, with selcall m ing CB even more applicable to needs of the modern business.

"Most of the local small b nesses have got UHF CB as t form of communication" cla Gary, who also cites Corow position on the border of the t states as contributing towa commercial use of the band.

With frequency assignme varying from one state to anot a business with offices on b sides of the border would likely that the Dept. would allocate or three different commercial V or UHF frequencies.

This would mean different ch nels for the offices in Wangara Corowa and Albury, for examp

UHF CB is the common deno nator. With the one radio, ind on the one channel, all offices mobiles can be linked together

Beyond contact within their c system, many businesses h found that UHF CB adds anot element to their daily routine. local fuel company receives ord from farmers and other custom over the air.

The fridge repairman, plumb and a variety of other services all are on UHF CB, and are usec receiving calls or business en ries over the air.

Of course, for this to happen, calling party needs to have UHF vell. And if the number of comcial UHFers is large, even greats the role of 'private' users.

Many of these have installed as a simple two-way unit from car to home — the personal sband-and-wife' situation. The ority are local farmers, who use plex UHF.

lo matter where you turn in owa, there's another twist been ed to prove the sheer versatility UHF CB.

An ever-popular venue in owa is the Murray River itself for swimming, water skiing and ses.

The 'Elizabeth T' is a mediumd passenger vessel, with daily ses along the Murray. She is fit with twin jets powered by 20 diesel engines — and that ever-sent option, UHF CB.

Owner/operator Harry Twikler chased the 'Elizabeth T' when was doing trips along the nklin River in Tasmania. She refitted, and now conveys up 50 passengers on each 25 mile ney. Aboard the craft, I spoke Greg Petrie, who holds the mislingly simple title of assistant nsman.

"It was pointless putting marine o in the boat, because no-one around here has it, explains g. "Marine radio wouldn't have ched some of the places we get further up the river, with UHF the repeater. UHF can get the ge wherever we travel."

With one rig aboard the boat, another at the base, bookings enquiries can be made at alst any time. When booked ses include a smorgasboard ner, says Greg, "Harry's wife es a portable UHF to the dock. en we get down stream, we ra the dock and they start the parations. By the time we tie up, dinner is cooked and ready."

Petrie is also involved with the l branch of the Volunteer Res Association. Through Gary ves, the VRA also became inred in what some call 'Corowa's rnal radio system'. Previously g low-band VHF, with a range ess than 20 miles, their UHF CB r has given the VRA potential direct contact with fellow emercy services if necessary.

"We also get involved in comnity events, such as the Federa weekend parades, and use UHF for that too."

In fact, the Federation weekend — held on the Australia Day long weekend, and celebrating Corowa's role in the foundation of the country — is another area where CB has come to mean 'community band'.

Besides the VRA's own efforts, the local Apex club has come to rely on UHF CB for its role in coordinating festival events such as river raft rallies, tractor pulls and the parade itself.

Apex member Neville Smith (also a pirate from the early days of 27 MHz) says that UHF CB has made a big difference to the festival weekend.

"We are running around at the tractor pull event, and immediately before the parade, organising the whole thing, trying to keep it running as smooth as possible," says Neville, "and UHF CB is great for this."

One innovation during the 1987 weekend was the use of a 477 MHz base station, which fed the audio from a simplex channel into the grounds' PA system.

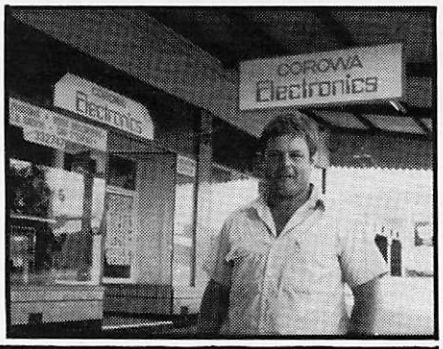
Using this, organisers with UHF handhelds could access the PA from anywhere within range of the base.

But maybe all this gets to you — after all, if you're on holidays, you don't want to be surrounded by radio every waking moment. So you head off to spend an hour or two at one of the local clubs.

No such luck. There, behind the man behind the bar, you'll find more than a bottle of Johnny Walker. You'll find a TX-470, in fact.

All three of Corowa's clubs operate UHF, linking them to their shared courtesy bus.

Staff from the RSL praised the system, saying it made life 'bloody easy'. Operating on a simplex channel, each can arrange for patrons to be picked-up by the 16 seater bus, co-ordinating each trip so the bus is never overcrowded



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and travels the most efficient route to encompass all users.

The return journey, later that evening (or early the next morning) is dealt with in the same way. And if any trouble occurs, and police presence is needed to cool things down — well, they're also on UHF, only a few channels away!

This is probably the real in-road that 477 MHz has made in the community. Every emegency service in Corowa, and a large proportion outside the town, is outfitted and active on UHF.

The most noticeable of these are the local police, who use channel 5.

"UHF CB is the medium in which we co-ordinate our activities" says Snr Constable Greg Milgate, of the Corowa Police. Greg points out that not only are the police vehicles on UHF, but also the fire brigade, ambulance, hospital and search-and-rescue teams.

"In a disaster UHF would bring us all together," Greg believes. "Instead of talking from our units to our base, to the ambulance base to the ambulance unit, for example, we could talk directly from the police car to the ambulance.

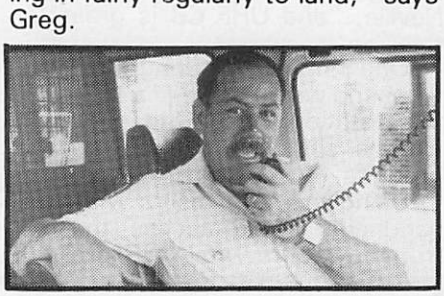
"We can have communications on the spot, which saves any time delay, and in the event of an emergency it can save lives. That's our main use for UHF CB."

Like fellow emergency officers, Greg is aware of the possible situations which Corowa might have to face. Fire is of course first among these.

"In the event of a bushfire, any number of trucks fighting the fire are on UHF. So if one truck spots an outbreak where there are no other trucks, he can use CB to direct other trucks to the scene of the outbreak, and minimise loss of grazing land and property."

Other emergency scenarios include a tourist bus crash, and an airport disaster.

"When Albury airport gets fogged-in during winter, a lot of flights are diverted to Corowa, and we have Fokker Friendships coming in fairly regularly to land," says Greg.



"Luckily, we haven't had a gr emergency at Corowa. But in su a situation, we could also have ambulance talking direct to a d tor at the hospital, who could th advise on bringing in the more s ous patients first."

Greg maintains that what U CB brings to them is communi tions on the spot, and directly the parties needed. This saves a time delay in passing messag and can save lives.

"If a situation arose when were out on patrol, and there is one in the station, there is a cons erable time delay. But with UHF may only be a few minutes awa

"It makes our job a lot eas and cuts down on time. And ti can save someone's life property."

Although there are none of established CB monitoring grou in Corowa, UHF ch. 5 is still place to call for help and ass tance. 'It's on all the time at police station, the ambulance s tion, and the fire station", s Gary Reeves.

"UHF is also in both police ve cles, the fire truck, both resc squad vehicles, and others wh are pressed into service necessary."

Corowa's use of UHF CB, esp cially channel 5, will receive a bo when Gary's latest project is co pleted — a ch. 5/35 emerger repeater. When I spoke to Ga approval for the unit had only j been received.

"It will help the greater area, cause the actual location for the peater is Redlands Hill. From te we've done, we will be able to c er the Hume Highway from W donga to Benalla, rock solid."

5/35 will also stretch along Murray River, one of the prime r sons why Gary decided to deve the repeater. The tree-lined ban absorb and attentuate UHF sign to a large extent, and with a lot river rescues and searches, G says "Communications have be a problem. Even the police ca get through to certain spots alo the river."

To date, UHF CB continues grow in Corowa. It has beco such a part of the community t everyone, even the local council getting into the act.

Congratulations to Gary Rev and the people of Corowa you've shown us just what CB dio is all about!

For expert advice and the best deals and after-sales service in north-east Victoria.

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CLUB NEWS

Another two months rolls ınd, and it seems that club ac- y is picking up, even as we ı into the winter period.

hanks to those groups that for- ded the info for this issue's col- ı — I hope the write-ups will erate a bit more interest in your s and let others know what is ɔening in the club scene around tralia.

on't forget the address — PO 429, Milsons Point, NSW, 1.

)NEY RADIO GROUP

ydney Radio 76 Graham sent a copy of the latest issue of the ıp's newsletter, 'Sydney On Side' — which is certainly ɔing into a very readable and rmative club mag.

iraham and the gang have been ɔing the 'phone lines running ween Sydney and Canberra, ı more than a few enquiries to department, and representa- on a number of issues. These ıded their own submission re- ling the proposed AM phase- (I hope every CB club puts its vs to DOC on this score), and asks why ch. 35 LSB could not allocated as a secondary SSB ng frequency.

Another snippet in the mag in- les a design for a simple indoor beam (for those living in rtments).

The club calendar, to date, in- les outings to Taronga Park ɔ, Australia's Wonderland ısement park and Old Sydney /n.

And, here's a snippet of trivia n John, SR22 — the origin of emergency call 'Mayday'. The n is merely a phonetic version of French term 'M'aidez!', which ins 'help me!' (recognise the ts of the English word 'aid' in e, as well?). It is the voice ivalent of the Morse code SOS and there's a bit of conflict over / that signal was chosen, too. ne claim it stands for 'Save Our ɔ' or even 'Save Our Souls', ers that the Morse group of ɐe dits-three-dahs-three-dits was easily remembered and recognised, even through noise.

Trivia aside, the Sydney Radio Group is rapidly becoming the CB club on Sydney's north side, well supported by Dave Smith and the Sydney CB Radio Shop. They can be contacted at PO Box 184, Northbridge, NSW, 2063.

ECHO RADIO CB CLUB

News from Perth's newest group, the Echo Radio CB Club . . . "A relatively new club on the airwaves," says Echo Radio 1 Rick, "but we are expanding quickly and will be around for a long time to come. All of our members do QSL 100 per cent and try to help new CBers who come onto the air."

Rick tells me that QSL cards and T-shirts are soon to be printed and invites anyone seeking more info on the Echo Radio Club to write to him at PO Box 519, Claremont, WA, 6010.

LIMA DELTA ASSOCIATION

Surprise of the month was a note from the English Lima Delta Association, which incorporates the Lima Delta DX Club.

Director of the Association, Mr Russell Ganderson, invites Australian CB DX clubs to contact his group, which was founded to 'promote and advertise CB DX clubs to enable them to expand their memberships'. The idea seems to be that, through the Lima Delta Association, local DX groups can obtain coverage in UK and European CB magazines — certainly one way to boost the international profile, which is of key importance to worldwide DX bodies.

For further details on this novel scheme, write to Mr Ganderson at the Lima Delta Association, PO Box 63, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU6 3DR, England.

ALBANY COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

News to hand of a new club, formed in September, 1986 in Albany, WA.

"Although Albany is not a large place," says Ken Bailey, Secretary for the Albany Communications Group, "it would have a greater following of CB radio than other towns of comparable size.

"Because of its geographical location in the south of the state, ideal communications for skip from the north-west and eastern states is enjoyed throughout the year," he claims.

With a membership of approx 40, ages range from 11 to the mid-70s. There are plenty of plans afoot for the group, so keep a listen for the 'ACG' ('Alpha Charlie Golf') callsigns of the Albany Communications Group — or write to them c/- 65 Hassell St, Elleker, WA, 6330.

QUICKIES . . .

— ACBRO (Australian Citizens Band Radio Organisation) now has almost two dozen affiliated clubs, from every state except NSW — not to mention its individual memberships. They turn out an interesting little mag, 'ACBRO ACTION' (original title . . !), too. For $5 per year, it's a good cause.

— Congrats to the Wild Geese International, which has begun a campaign to 'have ch. 35 LSB declared as an official (secondary) call channel'. Any other clubs willing to support this?

— A bit of innovation and co-operation from repeater associations in SA has resulted in an advert being inserted in the local press concerning UHF CB. In a very plain and easy-to-read style, it covers licensing, repeaters and how to use them, and other general aspects of 477 MHz. Behind it were the committees of 4/34 Anguston, 4/34 Snowtown, 6/36 Port Pirie, 7/37 Clare, 8/38 Mt Bryan and the Gawler/Barossa Division of ACRM. Well done, one and all.

— Interesting response to the newly formed FM CB club (Gladesville, NSW), with a number of enquiries about the 27 MHz FM scene in Australia — and quite a few 27FM enthusiasts coming out of the closet.

CB Action Club Register

NSW

Amateur and Citizens Radio Club, 2 Griffith Ave, Roseville NSW 2069.
Argonauts Radio Contact Club, C/- PO Railway Town NSW 2880.
Barrenjoey Peninsula Area CB Radio Club, PO Box 25, Avalon NSW 2107.
Beef Country Radio & Recreation Club, PO Box 852, Casino NSW 2470.
Berowra CB Radio Club, PO Box 2, Berowra NSW 2081.
Blue Mountains Repeater Association, PO Box 358, Granville NSW 2142.
Bravo Victor Radio Club C/- 11 Canning St Bega NSW 2550.
CB Callbook Club of Licensed Operators, 18 Malvina Parade, Gorokan, NSW 2263.
Central Western Citizens Band Community Radio Club, PO Box 628 Orange NSW 2800.
Disabled Water Sports Charity No 2023, C/- PO Saratoga NSW 2250.
Echo Victor Whiskey Radio Club of Newcastle, 6 Cheryl Close, Elermore Vale, NSW 2287.
Eleven Mike, PO Box 357, Singleton NSW 2330.
Eureka Base CB Radio Club Friends of Brain Injured Children, PO Box 12, Blacksmiths 2281.
G.L.C. Eastern Bases CB Radio Club, PO Box 767, Gosford NSW 2250.
FM CB Radio Owners Unite, PO Box 40, Gladesville, NSW 2111.
Gosford Citizens Radio Club, PO Box 447, Gosford NSW 2250.
Greater Cessnock City Radio Association, 48 Mayfield St, Cessnock NSW 2325.
Just Enough Radio Club PO Box 2799 Blayney NSW 2799.
Leisure Coast CB Radio Club, PO Box 1127, Wollongong, NSW 2500.
Lima Alpha Radio Club, PO Box 310, Lakemba, NSW 2195.
MacLeay Valley CB Radio Club PO Box 34, Kempsey NSW 2440.
Mallee Radio Australia CB Radio Club, PO Box 920, Griffith NSW 2680.
Metropolitan Radio Club, PO Box C31 Clarence St. Sydney NSW 2000.
Metropolitan West Radio Club, 74 Van Diemen Ave, Willmot NSW 2770.
Mike India CB Radio Club, PO Box 778, Campbelltown NSW 2560.
Moonlighters District Radio Club, PO Box 13, Hawks Nest NSW 2324.
National Dingo Association C/- Smithville via Broken Hill NSW 2880.
North Shore Radio Club PO Box 236 Pymble NSW 2073.
November Alpha Club, PO Box 412, Narrandera NSW 2700.
Overland Radio Club Inc (Sydney Branch), PO Box 295, Dee Why Sydney NSW 2099.
Parkes Citizens Band Radio Club PO Box 525 Parkes NSW 2870.
Pathfinder CB Social Club of Aust. Queanbeyan/Canberra Div PO Box 771, Queanbeyan NSW 2620.
Pathfinder Radio Group NSW, PO Box 167, St Mary's NSW 2750.
Pioneer CB Radio and Social Club, PO Box 34, Boolaroo NSW 2284.
Radio Rescue (NSW) Branch Operations Director, Galong NSW 2585.
REACT NSW State Team, 476 Parkinson St, Albury, NSW 2640.
Riverina Radio CB Social Club, 29 Parkinson Cres, Griffith NSW 2680.
Rough As Guts Radio (RAG), Finns Rd, Kulnura, RMB 22442, NSW 2250
Skydivers CB Radio Club Unit 5/3 Washington Avenue, Riverwood NSW 2210.
Shallow Water Sierra Whisky Club, PO Box 857, Nowra NSW 2540.
Tango Romeo Echo CB Club, PO BOx 688, Taree NSW 2430.
Tango-X-ray Side-band Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 664, Castle Hill NSW 2154.
The Beam Club of Australia, PO Box 633, Brookvale NSW 2100.
The TT UHF CB Radio Club, c/o PO Box C31 Clarence St. Sydney NSW 2000.
Titan Radio Group, PO Box 195 Blacktown NSW 2148.
United Citizen Band Radio Clubs of NSW, PO Box 104, Strathfield, NSW 2135.
Viking CB Radio Club PO Box 133 Miller NSW 2168.
Western Radio Club PO Box 666 Blacktown NSW 2148.
Whisky Lima Radio Club PO Box 139 Revesby NSW 2212.
Williams Valley Radio Club PO Box 50 Dungong NSW 2420.
Wombat CB Radio Club, PO Box 348, Lavington NSW 2641.

WA

ACRM WA South West Division 68 Rogers Avenue, Katanni 6317.
Albany Commns Group 65 Hassells St. Elleker Albany WA 633
Alpha Whiskey Alpha Radio Club 180 Bay View Dve Little Gro Albany WA 6330.
Australian Radio Group, PO Box 1118, Fremantle 6160.
Aust Radio Group, PO Box 429, Merredin WA 6415.
Black Swans CQDX Club of WA, PO Box 220, Kwinana WA 616
Bunbury Radio Club Inc, PO Box 31, Bunbury WA 6230.
Canning River Radio Club, 53 Parkside Ave, Mt Pleasant WA 615
Carnarvon Radio Club, PO Box 294, Carnarvon WA 6701.
CREST WA (Inc) PO Box 1200, East Victoria Park WA 6101.
Echo Radio CB Club, PO Box 519, Claremont, WA 6010.
Freedom Group Perth, PO Box 9, Palmyra WA 6157.
Gascoyne CB Club PO Box 947 Carnarvon WA 6701.
Golden Hawk CB Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 1183, Bunbu WA 6230.
Katanning CB Club, C/- PO Box 51, Katanning 6317.
Kookaburra CB & Social Club, 453 Sevenoaks St., Beckenha 6107.
Perth Acrem and Mustang CB Social Club, PO Box 193, Greenwo WA 6024.
Pilbara Radio Group, PO Box 95, Parraburdoo WA 6754.
Port Hedland Whisky Alpha CB Club, PO Box 2142, South Hedla WA 6722.
REACT WA State Team, 8B Frisby Crt, South Hedland, WA.
Sandgroper Club of South West WA PO Box 249 Collie WA 622
Scorpion Intnl CB Radio Club of WA PO Box 51 Rockingham W 6168.
Southern River Radio Group PO Box 38 Kelmscott WA 6111
The Mango Club, PO Box 241, Hillarys WA 6025.
The UHF Assn of WA Inc, PO Box 176, Hillarys WA 6025.
Titan Radio Group, PO Box 210, Kwinana WA 6167.
Wanneroo Citizens Radio Emergency Services Teams WA Inc, Box 402, Wanneroo WA 6065.
Western Radio Club, PO Box 484, Collie WA 6225.
Wild Geese International Combat Veterans Radio Communicatio Group, PO Box 673, Cannington WA 6107.

QLD

ACRIM QLD Inc, PO Box 213, Everton Park Brisbane Qld 4053
Alpha Whiskey, PO Box 936, Bundaberg, Qld 4670.
Alpha Whiskey Club, 49 Whylie St. Thabeban Bundaberg Qld 467
Australian Bulldog Club, 37 Sunderland St, Garbutt Townsville 4814.
Australian International CB Social Club, PO Box 150, Inala Qld 407
Brisbane Volunteer Emergency Monitoring Service, 22 Reis St., B anda 4012.
Bunya Radio Club, PO Box 575, Kingaroy Qld 4610.
CB Callbook Club of Licensed Operators PO Box 593 Palm Bea 4221.
Color Postcard Express International QSL and Postcard Swap Cl (Australian Rep), PO Box 111, Oakey Qld 4401.
Dirty Water CB Club of Australia, PO Box 262, Morningside 4170.
Golden City CB Club, PO Box 557, Gympie Qld 4570.
Hervey Bay and District CB Club, PO Box 382, Pialba Qld 4655
Inlanders CB Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 5712, Rockhampt Mail Centre Qld 4702.
KKK 106 Radio Club, PO Box 6547, Goldcoast Mail Centre 4217.
Leichardt CB Radio Club, PO Box 941, Leichardt Qld 4825.
Musketeer Club, PO Box 135, Ferny Grove 4055.
Radio Rescue (Qld Branch) State President, 33 Sharon Cres, Kels Townsville 4815.
Radio Rescue (Qld Bch) 33 Sharon Cres. Kelso, Townsville 4815.
REACT QLD State Team, Box 5227, Cairns Mail Centre Nth 4871.
Rockhampton Citizens Band Radio Club, PO Box 5230, Rockhan ton Mail Centre 4702.
Rum City CB Club PO Box 229 Qld 4670
Sunshine Coast CB Radio Club, PO Box 379, Maroochydore, 4558.
Southern Cross Radio Club Inc., PO Box 529, Darra, Qld 4076.

CB Action Club Register

United Pheasant Pluckers, South Calliope St, Springsure 4722.
woomba District CB Club, PO Box 5387, Toowoomba Qld 50.
woomba Mountain CB Club, PO Box 5299, Toowoomba Qld 50
a-lite Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 191, Carina 4152.
corn Radio of Australia PO Box 787 Woodridge Qld 4114.
unteer Emergency Monitors Caboolture, 96 Bishop St., Beach-re 4510.
liac International DX Radio of Australia, PO Box 189, Albion, Qld 0.
u Alpha Foxtrot CB Radio Club, PO Box 5122, Rockhampton Mail tre Qld 4701.

A

tralian Association of Citizens Band Radio Operators Inc., PO 146 Plympton 5038.
tralian Citizen Radio Monitors SA Inc (ACRM), PO Box 83, Pros-t SA 5082.
tralian Independent Monitoring Service Inc, SA Division, PO Box Stepney SA 5069.
caneer Radio Club, PO Box 239 Kilkenny 5009.
rlie X-Ray Citizen's Band Radio Club Inc., PO Box 824, Salisbury 5108.
stie's Beach Citizens Band Radio Club, PO Box 22, Moana SA 9.
nawarra CB Radio Club, 2 Eyre St, Barmera SA 5345.
le Radio Group, PO Box 302, Morphett Vale SA 5162.
eka Base CB Radio Club Friends of Brain Injured Children PO Box , Elizabeth 5112.
te Washing Dishes, PO Box 210, McLaren Vale SA 5171.
ar Radio Club, PO Box 70, Elizabeth Fields, SA 5113.
rland Radio Club Inc., PO Box 1010 Murray Bridge 5253.
CT Marine Rescue Service, 1 Flavel Terrace, Murray Bridge, SA 3.
CT SA State Team, 1 Flavel Tce, Murray Bridge 5253.
rpion CB Radio Club, PO Box 312, Elizabeth SA 5112.
thside CB Radio Club, PO Box 95, Glenelg SA 5045.
th West Radio and Social Club Inc, Box 381, Morphett Vale SA 2.
ereign Base Social and Radio Club Inc. PO Box 526 Elizabeth 2.
AK Wireless Club International, PO Box 948, Murray Bridge 3.
ngers CB Social Club, PO Box 79, Ingle Farm SA 5098.
s-World CB Radio Club International, 90 Crozier Ave, Daw Park 5041.
u Whiskey QSL Club, PO Box 16, Smithfield, SA 5114.

C

tralian Citizens Radio Monitors Gippsland PO Box 251 Morwell 3840.
tralian Radio Social Club, PO Box 222, Seaford Vic 3198.
U-Beaut Okker Radio Club of Aust. PO Box 150 Morwell 3840.
er Sugar Baker Social Radio Club, 34 Rodney St., Bendigo 3550.
Bird Club of Vic, C/- PO Box 39, St Andrews Vic 3761.
digo Radio CB and Social Club Inc. PO Box 862, Bendigo, Vic. 50.
go Cheerio Group, PO Box 1292 Richmond North 3121.
vo Bravo CB Club,7 Yanakie St., Morwell 3840.
vo Mike Radio Club, PO Box 94, Melton Vic 3337.
vo Sierra Bravo Radio Club (BSB), PO Box 277, Bendigo Vic 50.
rajung UHF CB Repeater Assn, PO Box 55, Port Albert Vic 3971.
Spoon Collectors Club, PO Box 251, Morwell Vic 3840.
ra FM CB Radio Club, PO Box 251 Morwell 3840.
ram & District Coffee Club, PO Box 478, Cobram 3644.
La Salle College UHF CB Class, 1818 High St., Malvern 3144.
eka Base CB Radio Club Friends of Brain Injured Children, PO Box , Morwell 3840.
ters CB Radio Club, PO Box 229, Cranbourne Vic 3977.
psland Emergency Monitoring Service (Inc) PO Box 983 Morwell 3840.
psland Repeater Assocn, PO Box 77, Sale Vic 3850.
lburn Murray Repeater Group Inc, PO Box 250 Euroa 3666.
mpians BC Club, C/- J. Delley, 1 Johnston St, Stawell Vic 3380.
sham CB Club, PO Box 730, Horsham Vic 3400.
rnational Crusade Assocn, PO Box 2616W, GPO Melbourne Vic 3001.
Jack Daniels Whisky Club PO Box 278 Preston Vic 3072.
Kilowatt Radio Club of Australia, PO Box 428, Mt Eliza Vic 3930.
Mary Delta 27 MHz Radio Club, 31 Rosebud Pde, Rosebud Vic 3939.
Mike India CB Radio Club, PO Box 1499, Mildura Vic 3500.
Mongrel Radio Social Club, 43 Bannister St. Nth Bendigo 3550.
Nightowl Radio Club of Victoria, PO Box 97, Huntingdale Vic 3166.
Omega Radio Club of Victoria, PO Box 50, Chadstone Centre Vic 3148.
Radio Charity Group, Latrobe Valley, PO Box 237, Churchill Vic 3842.
Radio Emergency Associated Citizens Team, 113 Blair St, Portland Vic 3303.
Radio Enthusiasts Club of the Blind, PO Box 219, Glenroy Vic 3046.
Radio Rescue (Vic) Regional Co-ordinator, 117 Bruce Rd, Safety Beach 3936.
REACT VIC State Team, 5 Damian Crt, Wodonga Vic 3690.
Region Dandenong CB Radio and Social Club, PO Box 57, Doveton Vic 3177.
Ringwood & District Radio & Social Club, PO Box 496, Croydon 3136.
Riviera Radio Club of Australia, C/- P. Robertson, 19 Taylor St, Bairnsdale Vic 3875.
Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, PO Box 182 Brighton Vic 3186.
Ethnic Ether (Double EE) Assocn, 31 Bride St Hampton Park Vic. 3976.
Scramblers CB Radio Club of Vic. PO Box 103, Braybrook, Vic. 3019.
southern Cross Radio Group, PO Box 365, Leongatha Vic 3953.
Sovereign Radio Club, PO Box 21, Sebastapol, Ballarat Vic 3356.
Tango Victor Radio Club, PO Box 3, Timboon Vic 3268.
The Black Panther DXing Social Club PO Box 527 Bendigo Vic 3550.
Ultra-Hi Club, 8 Peter St, Bell Post Hill Vic 3215.
Victorian Scorpion Radio Club (South Gippsland), 39 Quigley St, Morwell Vic 3840.
Victoria UHF Radio Club Inc, PO Box 407 Mount Waverley Vic 3149.
28 Whiskey Group Social Club Base of Vic C/- Bob, 33 Kennedy St Longwarry Vic 3816.

TAS

Blue Lagoon Social Radio Club, 9 Walker St. Ulverstone Tas. 7315.
FIB UHF Club, PO Box 18, Ridgley Tas 7321.
LT Club Incorporated, PO Box 626 Launceston 7250.
REACT Tasmania State Team, RMB 7055, National Park, Tas. 7140.
Sierra Tango Radio Club, PO Box 433, New Norfolk Tas 7140.
Ulverstone Radio Operators Club PO Box 432 Ulverstone Tas 7315.
United Frequency Operators of Tasmania, 7 Jacob Ave, Georgetown Tas 7253.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Australian Citizen Radio Monitors, NT branch Inc, PO Box 40327, Casuarina NT 5792.
Darwin CB Radio Club, PO Box 40733, Casaurina, NT 5792.

INTERNATIONAL

Dayglo QSL Club, 13 Synite Place, Rostrevor, BT34-3EP, Co Down, Northern Ireland, UK.
Ethnic Ether (Double EE) Assocn, 31 Bride St Hampton Park Vic 3976
Gumboot QSL Club, PO Box 4127, New Plymouth 4630 New Zealand.
Lakeside QSL Club of Australia PO Box 593 Palm Beach Qld, Australia 4221.
Lima Delta Association, PO Box 63 Dunstable BEDS LU6 3DR England.
REACT Australia Inc. Headquarters, 1 Flavel Tce, Murray Bridge 5253.
REACT NZ CH5000, PO Box 22 — 527 Christchurch, NZ.
REACT International Inc, 3653 Woodhead Dve, Northbrook, Illinois USA 60062.
Three Vikings QSL Club, PO Box 34, 642 21 Katrineholm Sweden.
Unite Mike Mike International, PO Box 23, B4650, Herve, Belgium.
Wainui Radio Club, PO Box 836, Wellington NZ.

To get your clubs name in the register, simply fill in the form in this issue of the magazine. Send your club news to the address included in the Club News page.

CLUB REGISTER FORM

CB Action Club Register

If you wish to have your club name listed in the CB ACTION Club Register, please ask your club secretary to fill in this coupon and post to "CB ACTION CLUB REGISTER, Box 628E GPO, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001."

Due to printing deadlines, it is possible for new entries to take up to two issues before appearing.

If you don't want to cut your copy of CB ACTION magazine, either photostat the coupon or send your entry in on a separate letter giving all the relevant details.

Overseas entries are welcome.

Please print or type — applications that are either illegible or not completely filled out may not be included in the listing.

Authorised by ..... Pres /Sec.

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THE ALL-NEW SHORTWAVE LISTENERS' "BIBLE"

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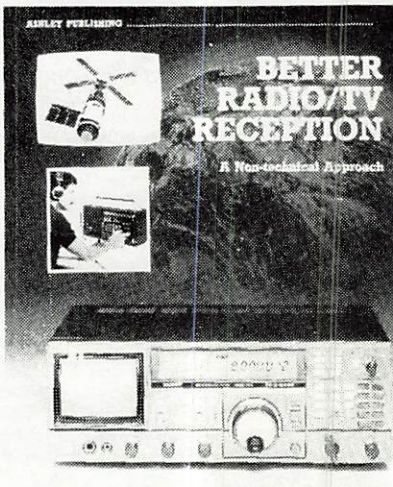

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HATADI PEARCE-SIMPSON'S 'SOUND ADVISER'

MAY-JUNE 1987

Cobra® is back!

Yes, one of the most popular and well-remembered brands from the early days is back in Australia. Hatadi are now the exclusive distributors for Cobra. Of all the big name brands which old hand CBers talk about, Cobra (and Pearce-Simpson) are the survivors. The Cobra CB range is engineered for performance, year after year. With features that work for you. And they're built by Uniden, what's more! Look at the 1987 Cobra line up . . .

ora 18+

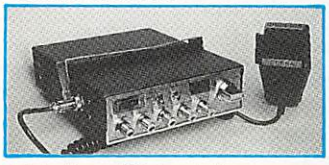
this is style! Smart looks
h will match the very
t car hi-fi gear . . .
tronic channel change,
vative digital 'staircase'
er, and an extra-large
n LED channel display.
re's also a PA facility, ch. 9
ct, and a fully automatic
e limiter.

Cobra 19+

Another charmer, the 19+ has the same electronic channel change and staircase S-meter as the 18+. Green LED readout, too . . . and doesn't

the traditional mike bring back memories of solid rigs that went on and on?

Cobra 146GTL



Hatadi and Cobra bring you a medium-feature SSB rig, with all the controls you really need. RF gain, large analogue meter, PA and a very effective noise limiting circuit. A great mobile SSB, which you can set and forget.

Cobra 148GTL

Here's the top-shelf Cobra, for the true sideband enthusiast. Mike and RF gain, dimmer (great when you're on that long night drive), tone control, and a built-in SWR meter to keep an eye on that antenna. Lots of little touches gives this Cobra real bite!

E ULTIMATE UHF CB — THREE RADIOS IN ONE!

eaction of UHF operators to the versatile Royce TS-133 has surprised everyone — ot us. We knew all along that this rig was one of a kind, and would quickly find use ng hobbyists, business users, farmers, and many more. If you've ever spent big ey on a mobile, then a second rig for the house, and then a portable — look at what oyce can do for you!

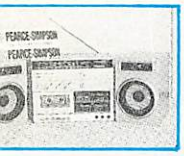
Porta-pack

Take the Royce a'roaming with the porta-pack. Just slip it into the heavy-duty light-weight carry case, connect the mini-whip antenna (included), and you're on the go! All the features of the Royce, to take with you wherever you travel. 14 hours operation on 5 watts output — or switch to 1 w 'low', and it'll last for days. We'd invite you to compare this to any other UHF portable, but there's just no comparison.

Mobile

How did we get all the features of the Royce into such a subminiature chassis? By using modern technology and advanced circuitry techniques. So the TS-133 will fit into any car, truck, tractor or harvester — and still deliver the features which no other rig can match. Electronic channel change, on the mike as well. Repeater reverse, full scanning, and one-touch resets to the emergency, calling and high-way channels. This is the one used for the 1986 Wynn's Safari, so you know it's tough!

TS-133 makes an unmatched base station, too. To keep tabs on the ess, or hop around the channels with fellow enthusiasts — there's ng like the Royce UHF CB.

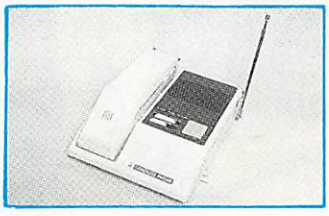


Home stereo equipment

Coming soon from Hatadi — a complete range of stereo and entertainment gear. Portables, personal 'walky' radios and cassettes, home units and speakers. Worth the wait — our new range will represent the best value for money in Australia. It's that good, and that affordable.

TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT FOR THE 1990's

Set yourself free with our cordless telephones! The CT-303AUS has a special security code, to stop 'phone pirates, 200 metres range, last-number redial, volume control on handset, low battery lamp — fully Telecom approved, so it's safe and legal. Beware of unapproved 'phones — fines and penalties are severe!



TA700

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All stated specifications are typical only and subject to improvement without notice.
The IC-40 is D.O.C. approved (# 250028).